

**THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

OFFICIAL REPORT

IN THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND
TOBAGO WHICH OPENED ON OCTOBER 17, 2002

SESSION 2006—2007

VOLUME 16

SENATE

Tuesday, December 05, 2006

The Senate met at 1.30 p.m.

PRAYERS

[MADAM PRESIDENT *in the Chair*]

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Madam President: Hon. Senators, I have granted leave of absence from today's sitting to Sen. The Hon. Christine Kangaloo and Sen. The Hon. Christine Sahadeo, both of whom are ill.

SENATORS' APPOINTMENT

Madam President: Hon. Senators, I have received the following correspondence from His Excellency the President, Professor George Maxwell Richards, T.C. C.M.T., Ph.D:

“THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

By His Excellency, Professor GEORGE
MAXWELL RICHARDS, T.C., C.M.T Ph.D.,
President and Commander-in-Chief of the
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

/s/ G. Richards
President.

TO: MRS. MAGNA WILLIAMS-SMITH

WHEREAS Senator Christine Kangaloo is incapable of performing her duties as a Senator by reason of illness:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE MAXWELL RICHARDS, President as aforesaid, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, in exercise of the power vested in me by section 44 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, do hereby appoint you, MAGNA WILLIAMS-SMITH, to be temporarily a member of the Senate, with effect from 05th December, 2006 and continuing during the period of illness of the said Senator Christine Kangaloo.

Senators' Appointment
[MADAM PRESIDENT]

Tuesday, December 05, 2006

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the
President of the Republic of Trinidad and
Tobago at the Office of the President, St.
Ann's, this 04th day of December, 2006."

"THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

By His Excellency, Professor GEORGE
MAXWELL RICHARDS, T.C., C.M.T Ph.D.,
President and Commander-in-Chief of the
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

/s/ G. Richards
President.

TO: MS. ROSE JANNEIRE

WHEREAS Senator Christine Sahadeo is incapable of performing her duties as a
Senator by reason of illness:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE MAXWELL RICHARDS, President as aforesaid,
acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, in exercise of the power
vested in me by section 44 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and
Tobago, do hereby appoint you, ROSE JANNEIRE, to be temporarily a member of
the Senate, with immediate effect and continuing during the period of illness of
the said Senator Christine Sahadeo.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the
President of the Republic of Trinidad and
Tobago at the Office of the President, St.
Ann's, this 05th day of December, 2006."

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

*Senators Magna Williams-Smith and Rose Janneire took and subscribed the Oath
of Allegiance as required by law.*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Desalination Company of Trinidad and Tobago
(Termination of Contract)**

- 3. Sen. Wade Mark** asked the hon. Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment:
Could the Minister state:
- (a) whether the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has
terminated the contract entered into between itself and the Desalination
Company of Trinidad and Tobago (DESALCOTT);

- (b) the date such termination was effected;
- (c) the precise reasons for the termination; and
- (d) the effects of the termination of the contract with DESALCOTT on the ability of the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) to fulfil its mandate?

The Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment (Hon. Penelope Beckles): Thank you very much, Madam President. As it relates to question 3, the first part of that question being whether the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has terminated the contract entered into between itself and the Desalination Company of Trinidad and Tobago, the answer is as follows:

- (a) The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has sought the assistance of the Court to have the contract voided. To date, in keeping with the requirements of the rules of civil procedure, the Government has caused to be sent to DESALCOTT through its attorneys a pre-litigation letter stating its position on the matter and its claims in respect of the existing contract. The Government alleges that the DESALCOTT contract was procured as a consequence of fraud and that the operation of the contract is in law void.

The Government has since been informed by its attorneys that a response to the pre-litigation letter has in fact been received from DESALCOTT. These steps represent the preliminary procedures mandated by the Civil Procedure Rules towards the resolution of any civil claim. If the matter cannot be resolved by the parties, the appropriate civil action claiming relief for fraud shall be initiated in the Court.

- (b) The date such termination was effected is a matter to be decided by the Court, should the appropriate action be initiated by the Government.
- (c) That is the precise reason for the termination. The Government's reexamination of its contractual relationship with DESALCOTT has risen from its investigations into allegations of fraud and corruption in the procurement and operation of the water supply agreement with DESALCOTT.
- (d) The effects of the termination of the contract with DESALCOTT on the ability of the Water and Sewerage Authority to fulfil its mandate, should there be a termination of the contract between the Government and DESALCOTT, there would be no foreseeable effects upon the ability of WASA to fulfil its mandate.

Sen. Mark: Madam President, through you, may I ask my hon. colleague whether the contract has been formally terminated or are proceedings—are we still in some, I am not too sure.

Hon. P. Beckles: What I have indicated is that we are going through the process in keeping with civil litigation. We have written to the lawyers and we are actually going to court for the purpose of making a determination.

Sen. Mark: Madam President, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether she is aware that the Attorney General is on record in this Parliament as telling Trinidad and Tobago and this entire Parliament that the contract has been terminated on fraudulent grounds. This is on public record and I would like to know if you are aware of this, because what you are telling this Parliament today is in contradiction to what the hon. Attorney General told us some months ago.

Hon. P. Beckles: Madam President, I am not aware that the statement made by myself and the one made by the Attorney General are in contradiction, but I am sure the Attorney General can clarify that, if necessary.

The Integrity Commission (List of Complaints)

11. Sen. Wade Mark asked the hon. Attorney General:

Could the Attorney General:

- (i) provide the Senate with a list of the various complaints which have been submitted to the Integrity Commission for investigation; and
- (ii) state the dates on which these complaints were submitted?

The Attorney General (Sen. The Hon. John Jeremie): Madam President, can I take all of them together?

Sen. Mark: No, you would take one at a time.

Sen. The Hon. J. Jeremie: Okay. Madam President, question No. 11 is not ready. The Integrity Commission is a body separate and apart from the Attorney General, an independent commission established by the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago and the answer is not ready. I dare say that it is by no means certain, given our previous dealings with the Integrity Commission that this question will ever be answered to the satisfaction of the Senator, but I will of course, endeavour to do my best. I have already written to the Integrity Commission and I would endeavour to do my best to answer the question.

Sen. Mark: Madam President, I hope that my colleague is not anticipating my response.

Question, by leave, deferred.

**Hon. Dr. Keith Rowley, Minister of Housing
(Investigation by the Integrity Commission)**

12. Sen. Wade Mark asked the hon. Attorney General:

- A. With specific reference to the complaint in respect of the hon. Dr. Keith Rowley, Minister of Housing, could the Attorney General inform the Senate whether the investigation has been completed;
- B. If the answer to (A) is in the affirmative, could the Attorney General inform the Senate of the findings of the Integrity Commission; and
- C. If the answer to (A) is in the negative, could the Attorney General indicate to the Senate when this investigation is likely to be completed?

The Attorney General (Sen. The Hon. John Jeremie): Ditto.

Sen. Mark: Madam President, I would not waste your time because it would be ditto as well, so could the hon. Attorney General, through you— [*Interruption*] [*Crosstalk*]

Question, by leave, deferred.

Madam President: Question No. 13 to the Attorney General.

Sen. Mark: Yes, before he says ditto may I put question No. 13 to the hon. Attorney General?

**Integrity Commission
(Lack of Funding)**

13. Sen. Wade Mark asked the hon. Attorney General:

Could the Attorney General inform this Senate whether the Integrity Commission is being starved of funding and adequate resources in order to conduct and complete these investigations into the various complaints referred to it?

The Attorney General (Sen. The Hon. John Jeremie): Thank you, Sen. Mark. Madam President, the answer is ditto.

Sen. Mark: What does that mean? Madam President, may I ask through you?

Madam President: All right, just one query. Go ahead.

Sen. Mark: Madam President, could I ask the hon. Attorney General to tell us what time frame would he want to suggest for responses orally to these questions?

Sen. The Hon. J. Jeremie: On question No. 13, I should be able to answer that within two weeks. On questions Nos. 11 and 12, if I were to hazard a guess this afternoon, I reckon three weeks.

Question, by leave, deferred.

Sen. Dr. Gopeesingh: Madam President, for written answers as well. Three very important questions to the Minister of Health and they are not forthcoming, so may I ask if there is any situation with regard to that in terms of the answers to those three questions—three.

Madam President: Any answers yet, Sen. Dr. Saith?

Sen. Dr. Saith: My notes here suggest that question No. 9 is an approved answer and will be circulated; the others are still being prepared.

Madam President: All right, so we would get question No. 9 today?

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

Government's Chronic Disease Assistance Programme (List of all Pharmacies)

9. **Sen. Dr. Tim Gopeesingh** asked the hon. Minister of Health:

- (a) Would the hon. Minister provide the list of all pharmacies which fill prescriptions issued under the Government's Chronic Disease Assistance Programme (C-DAP)?
- (b) Would the hon. Minister inform this Senate of the following:
 - (i) The total value of prescriptions filled by each pharmacy under the C-DAP from the commencement of operations to August, 2006?

Vide end of sitting for written answer.

Sen. Dr. Gopeesingh: I do not know if the Minister of Health will be here, but perhaps we can get an answer from him.

Madam President: Well, when we reach to that point—[*Interruption*] Can we move on please?

LAW REVISION (AMDT.) BILL

Bill to amend the Law Revision Act, Chap. 3:03 [*The Minister of Legal Affairs*]; read the first time.

**MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (MINIMUM AGE FOR
ADMISSION TO EMPLOYMENT) BILL**

Order for second reading read.

The Minister of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development (Sen. The Hon. Danny Montano): Madam President, I beg to move,

That a Bill to amend the law relating to the minimum age for admission to employment in Trinidad and Tobago, be now read a second time.

We are pleased to be here this afternoon to present this Bill. This Bill seeks to raise the minimum age for employment to 16, and it seeks to do this by amending several pieces of existing legislation which all relate to the matter.

Upon resuming office last year, I had viewed all outstanding legislation that fell under the purview of the Ministry and undertook to examine those that could be brought to an early conclusion. What you see before you is the result of that exercise.

In Cabinet Minute No. 1187 of May 13, 1993, Cabinet had agreed that the Minister of Foreign Affairs should prepare and issue, the appropriate instruments to ratify ILO Convention No. 138 concerning the minimum age for admission to employment. This decision was based on a recommendation of Convention 144, Tripartite Committee, which is the committee responsible for considering ILO Conventions. They had noted at the time, that although the Republic had ratified several pieces of Human Rights Conventions, Convention No. 138 was still outstanding. The ILO, however, did not register a ratification when submitted in May of 1999 as we had failed then, to declare a minimum age for employment. Therefore, the Government undertook and agreed as recorded in Cabinet Minute No. 1444 of May 27, 2004, that the minimum age for employment in Trinidad and Tobago should be 16 and instructed the Attorney General to prepare the necessary legislation to give effect to that decision.

The implication of ratification as enunciated in Article 1 of the Convention is and I quote:

“Each member for which this convention is in force, undertakes to pursue a national policy designed to ensure the effective abolition of child labour and to raise progressively, the minimum age for admission to employment or work to a level consistent with fullest physical and mental development of young persons.”

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The Convention also requires that the minimum age for admission to employment should not be less than the age of compulsory attendance at school, and in any case not less than 15 years, and therefore, our declaration of a minimum age of 16 is consistent with the requirement of the Convention. The Convention was ratified on September 03, 2004 and this has made to date 18 ILO Conventions ratified by Trinidad and Tobago.

Madam President, in order to comply with the Convention, several pieces of existing legislation concerning the employment of children needed to be rationalized. The first opportunity to do this came with the amendments to the Occupational Safety and Health Act which as you know was amended earlier this year. You will recall that section 4 of that Act was amended to change the definition of a young person to be a child of the age of 16 and under the age of 18. This Act as originally passed would have allowed a child of 15 to work. Accordingly, the floor for the employment of children was raised for the first time by those amendments to age 16, but the provisions of that Act could not stand alone as there were other Acts that were in conflict.

In November of 2002, the Office of the Attorney General undertook a review of the various pieces of legislation that needed to be rationalized and prepared an opinion entitled “Summary of opinion on the legal implication of a minimum age of 16 years for admission to employment on the domestic statutes of Trinidad and Tobago”. Let me give a quick overview of this opinion including some of the suggestions as put forward by that office—the Children Act, Chap. 46:01. Sections 91 to 95 of the Children Act as they are now, allow for the employment of children below the age of 16. The industrial undertaking as described in section 91 of the Children Act includes the types of work covered in Article 5(3) of the Convention.

This Article applied to the minimum age to mining and quarrying; manufacturing and construction; electricity; gas and water sanitary services; storage; plantations; and other agricultural undertakings. The AG’s opinion stated if the State wished to prescribe the minimum age of admission to employment in industrial undertakings of 16 years, that section 91(1) could be retained with 14 years being replaced with the new minimum age, which will be 16 years. Section 91(2) indirectly permits the employment of children below the age of 14 in public or private industrial undertakings, as it allows employment if the child is under an order of detention in a certified industrial school or certified orphanage or is receiving instruction in manual labour in any school supervised by a public authority.

By virtue of Article 5(3) of the Convention, section 91(2) will be in breach of the Convention and its repeal will be required. It was recommended that section 91(2) of the Children Act be repealed and replaced with a legislative provision which reflects the exceptions provided by Article 6 of the Convention. Since persons below the age of 16 years are not permitted under the Convention to work in industrial undertakings, section 92, of the Children Act will be ineffective. In light of Article 9(3) of the Convention, it was recommended that section 92 of the Children Act be repealed and replaced with a new provision which requires not just employers in industrial undertakings, but all employers to keep and maintain such registers as prescribed by the competent authority setting out all the details required by this Article.

Section 93(1) of the Children Act sets a minimum age of employment of 14 years and would therefore be in breach of the Convention. Section 93(1) further provides for an exception for vessels upon which only members of the same family are employed, this exception is not however, permitted by the Convention. If a general legislative provision is enacted which prescribes the minimum age of 16 years for admission to employment, it would be necessary to repeal section 93(1) of the Children Act.

With respect to section 93(2), since persons below 16 years of age are no longer permitted to work on board vessels, this section is then unnecessary unless it is included by the competent authority under Article 4 of the Convention. In accordance with Article 9(3) of the Convention, all employers are required to keep registers of employees who are below the age of 18 years.

Section 94 of the Children Act as presently drafted, is also in breach of the Convention and would have to be repealed and replaced as it had provided that children up to the age of 12 could be employed. It is recommended that this section be replaced with a comprehensive provision which prescribes a new minimum age of 16 for admission to employment, subject only to those exceptions permitted by the Convention which the competent authority determines as necessary.

The Attorney General's office had two views concerning section 95 of the Children Act. They suggested that the section would either have to be repealed or amended perhaps by replacing the word "twelve" with the word "sixteen".

With respect to section 96 of the Act, they saw it would be necessary to delete the words "other than an offence under section 92 and section 93(2)"—in section 96—since these sections will have to be repealed. They highlighted during the

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review of this section that an attempt should be made to ensure that in accordance with Article 9(1), the penalties for contravention are appropriate. It is therefore recommended that the penalties under section 96 of the Children Act be reviewed.

The Factories Ordinance, Chap. 30:02. The Factories Ordinance prohibits the employment of children below the age 14 years; that is in section 43. It permits in limited circumstances, the employment of children between the ages of 14 and 18. The Ordinance would have to be amended by increasing the upper age in the definition of a child from 14 to 16.

The Shipping Act, No. 24 of 1987. With regard to section 108 of the Shipping Act, we explored whether or not the exception provided by section 108(1)(a) was permissible under Article 6 or any other Article of the Convention. They considered firstly that there was a possibility that Article 6 would not apply to work done by children and young persons on a school ship or a training ship. However, Article 6 also provides that the Convention would not apply to work done by persons at least 14 years, if such work is an integral part of a programme of training, which has been approved by a competent authority. To fall within the exception provided by Article 6, it would be necessary to amend section 108 by stating that persons below the age of 16 may not be employed on ships. However, persons between the ages of 14 to 16 years may be admitted to work on ships, providing that the work is in an integral part of a programme of training on board ships.

The Recruiting of Workers Act, Chap. 88:10. Finally, section 5 of the Recruiting of Workers Act, Chap. 88:10 will also have to be repealed. The Office of the Attorney General did not elaborate on the rationale for the repealing of this section, but I will take the opportunity to do so as I review the Bill. Consequently, the office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel (CPC) began drafting this Bill in keeping with the opinion of the Attorney General's office and finalized it in conjunction with our legal unit. Let me now carry you through the provisions of the Bill.

Clause 2 seeks to establish and declare the minimum age for admission to employment to be 16; this is consistent with Cabinet's directive in its minute of May 2004. Subsection (2) of the clause makes this requirement applicable to any past or present law unless the contraries state it. The Factories Ordinance as stated in the Attorney General's opinion would have been in breach of the Convention, therefore, clause 3 of the Bill seeks to delete the word "fourteen" in the interpretation section and replace it with the word "sixteen". The Occupational Safety and Health Act which replaces the Factories Ordinance in August of 2007,

as I indicated earlier already addresses the minimum age requirement, and therefore, since the Factories Ordinance remains in force until August of next year, it is necessary to make it consistent until its repeal.

Clause 4(a) seeks to introduce the meaning of the word “court and inspector” as reference is made to them in the new sections being introduced to the Children Act. Clause 4(b) seeks to repeal and replace section 91; this gives effect to the Attorney General's opinion. The new section 91 raises the age to 16 and provides that no child under the age of 16 should be employed in any private or public undertaking unless it is with family. It is an offence if this section is breached. The section goes further to provide that the section would not apply, if the child were working in furtherance of the training for an occupation or prescribed conditions by the Minister responsible for education.

2.00 p.m.

Section 92 of the Children Act permitted any member of the police service to inspect the mandatory register kept by employers who employed children under the age of 16. Clause 4(c) of the Bill seeks to repeal and replace this section. It breaks the provision into subsections and provides that an employer is to maintain a register for every person under the age of 18 years and maintain details of their name, address and date of birth. This section kept the age of 18 because the Children (Amdt.) Act, No. 68 of 2000, in its amendment to the definition of a child or young person, substituted the word “fourteen” with the word “eighteen”; therefore, for consistency, the Bill did not interfere with that provision as its intention is just to ensure that every young person is maintained on a register. The section, however, shifts the power of inspection to an inspector who is appointed by the Minister responsible for labour.

New sections 92A and 92B are being introduced in the Children Act. Section 92A gives the Minister the power to appoint an inspector in his Ministry. This inspector has the authority to require a parent, guardian, employer or his agent, unless the agent is engaged in a confidential relationship, to give him information with respect to a person employed under the age of 18 years and the power to inspect any record, pay sheet or certificate showing age.

Section 92B goes further and gives the inspector the power of entry at all reasonable times with the permission of the owner. If there appears to be a breach of the Act, he may require the relevant person to answer questions, seize and take away any relevant documents and produce them in any proceedings. However, if the documents are needed for the day-to-day operation of the business, that person

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must be given reasonable access. This section also ensures that the inspector does not use forced entry, but provides that he is to obtain a warrant from a judge; in this context, the President or Vice-President of the Industrial Court. The judge, however, is to be guided that the warrant should not be issued unless the occupier was given notice by the inspector of his intention to apply. The warrant continues in force until the purpose for which it was issued is achieved. It is also an offence to obstruct an inspector.

Clause 4(d) repeals section 93, since specifying the requirement for the keeping of the register on a vessel is redundant, in light of the requirement for all employers to maintain a register under the new provisions.

Clause 4(e) repeals and replaces section 94. The new section 94 removes the provision for the child under 12 years to be employed, since the new age is now 16 years. A parent who is found to have conduced a child under the age of 16 years to work, commits an offence. Section 94A extends the liability to an agent or workman of an employer who permits a child under the age of 16 years to work. Section 94B provides further that a parent who falsifies a certificate representing the age of a child, commits an offence. Clause 4(f) amends section 95 by making it consistent with the new minimum age.

Clause 4(g) recognizes the need to maintain a general offences section and remove the reference to section 92 and section 93(2), since they are repealed. Clause 5 repeals section 5 of the Recruitment of Workers Act. This was necessary to be consistent with the convention. This section provided that persons under the age of 18 years could not be recruited; however, it gave an exception and allowed persons under the age of 18, but above the age of 14, to be recruited with the consent of their parents. With the minimum age now being 16 years, this section becomes obsolete.

Madam President, there is a correspondent regulation 6 in that Act which also needs to be repealed, but that will be done by subsequent amendment regulations to that Act.

Clause 6, in keeping with the Attorney General's opinion, sought to include a new section to the Shipping Act and provides, categorically, that children under the age of 16 years are not permitted to work on ships; unless it is an integral part of their training.

This Bill shows the commitment of the Government to the safety and health of the children of the nation and the efforts we are making to reduce and remove the incidents of child labour in this country.

Madam President, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

Sen. Wade Mark: Madam President, the Bill before us relates to the minimum age for admission to employment. As the hon. Minister said, the Government, through its ratification of Convention 138 and the last convention it had ratified, dealt with some of the worst forms of child labour. One convention was ratified in 2003 and the other was done in 2004. We have to put this question in some context. As you are well aware, sometime in the 1990s, there was a major debate which resulted in a convention being adopted by the United Nations (UN), known as the Convention on the Rights of the Child. You will recall that Trinidad and Tobago signed off on this particular convention back in 1991 and there was a period of time that was allowed for states to put into force the provisions of the various articles governing this convention of the rights of the child.

Trinidad and Tobago remained, whilst Barbados, Grenada and Belize had advanced in addressing the minimum age for entry or admission into the labour force. So for almost 40 years—because as the hon. Minister said it was ratified sometime in 2004—we had a situation where young children, the flowers of the nation, had no protection via legislation; that is, those who were 14 years and under; even though the employment age was 14, as you see in this legislation. I want to indicate to the hon. Minister that there are some other changes which will be required in order to bring this particular piece of legislation up to internationally acceptable standards.

Is there independence or separation between the education system and the labour market? Is there an intricate linkage between the education system and the labour market? I would advise and advance to the hon. Minister of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development that the Ministry of Education has a very important role to play in this particular exercise which the hon. Minister has embarked upon.

If you look at section 76 of the Education Act, it is entitled “Compulsory Education”; I want to read what it says:

“(1) In this Act, the expression ‘a compulsory school age’ means any age between six and twelve years and accordingly a person shall be deemed to be of compulsory school age if he has attained the age of six years and has not attained the age of twelve years, and a person shall be deemed to be over compulsory school age as soon as he has attained the age of twelve years.

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(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the Minister,...

Who is Sen. The Hon. Hazel Manning:

“if he is satisfied that it has become necessary or expedient to raise or lower the upper limit of the compulsory school age, made by Order, subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament, within sixty days of the making of the Order, direct that the foregoing provisions of this section shall have effect as if for references therein to the age of twelve years...”

It is highly irregular, on the one hand, for this or any government to increase the admission age for employment, as in this instance, from 14 years to 16 years.

When we did not have free secondary education in this country for all our children, this may have stood, but now that we have free secondary education, I would like to respectfully suggest to the hon. Minister of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development and to the Minister of Education that one of the amendments we need to effect, along with those that the Minister has suggested today, would be the issuing of a legal notice increasing the age of compulsory education from 12 years to 16 years, in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. [Desk thumping]

I ask the hon. Minister whether she has taken steps, since the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in light of this amendment before Parliament, whether she has exercised her power given under section 76(2) of the Education Act by issuing a legal notice increasing the compulsory age of persons who would have access to education, from 12 years to 16 years. Madam President, I am prepared to take my seat to ask the hon. Minister if she has issued such a legal notice.

Sen. Manning: Madam President, we have not issued such a notice. We have, however, set up a committee within the Ministry. The committee is meeting with another committee from the Attorney General’s Office and, at this point in time, we are looking at the Education Act of 1962 to upgrade it. Hopefully, by the end of this year, we would have a response to what is happening. At this point in time we are considering a new age limit, from three years to 18 years.

Sen. W. Mark: I would like the hon. Minister to speed up this matter. [Laughter] I think we have been taking too long with this matter.

Madam President, I will like to share with you, sometime later in the proceedings, a comprehensive report entitled “Trinidad and Tobago’s Second Periodic Report under the Convention on the Rights of the Child”, issued and presented on behalf of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago by the Human Rights

Unit of the Attorney General's Ministry. This was submitted in 2003. The committee that hears such matters at the United Nations, heard this matter on January 06 of this year and adopted the report on January 27, with some very unkind, stinging remarks about the inability of this Government to effect simple measures that it has committed itself to effecting, given the provisions under this particular Convention which we have ratified. But a little later for that one; I will deal with that later.

Sen. Jeremie: There were no stinging measures.

Sen. W. Mark: You were a party to that and you know what you did. [*Crosstalk*] Did you submit that report or Sen. Morean? [*Crosstalk*]

Madam President: Please, Senators.

Sen. W. Mark: He is passing the buck to the new High Commissioner. It does not matter, Madam President.

I will like to make an appeal, because if the Minister of Education does not move post-haste to issue a legal notice to deal with compulsory education, what is the sense, given the rate of dropouts in the society among school children?

There is a report that I have seen and from which I will quote extensively, "The Situation of Children in Landfill Sites and other Worst Forms of Child Labour: A Rapid Assessment"; it was done by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in conjunction with the Ministry of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development.

Sen. Montano: No, no.

Sen. W. Mark: It was just done by the ILO then. [*Crosstalk*] I stand corrected. I am always the first to indicate that if I am wrong, I am wrong; if I am right, I am right. [*Laughter*] In this instance, this is the report that was issued some time in December 2002.

Sen. Jeremie: December 2001.

Sen. W. Mark: December 2002; so you are wrong. I am right this time.

Sen. Jeremie: So you are right this time? [*Laughter*]

Sen. W. Mark: Madam President, I raised these points to show that if the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is serious about protecting our children, it cannot blow hot and blow cold. Act No. 68 of 2000 is entitled an Act to amend the Children Act, Chap. 46:01. Do you know what is sad about our situation?

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There were various Acts governing the rights of children consistent with the convention that we have ratified. The UNC in 1999 and 2000 effected measures consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. There were about six pieces that were all proclaimed. You know the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, after five years and a few months in office, has done nothing to effect the implementation consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child to give effect in law, administratively and otherwise, to these very fundamental pieces of legislation to protect our children.

How can the PNM tell this country that it is interested in the children, when we have passed, in this Parliament, five pieces of legislation in the year 2000 to protect the rights of the children and they were proclaimed? But the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, after five years in office, has done nothing to protect, to proclaim, to enact, to implement those pieces of legislation to protect the rights of the children? Tell me, is that not an indictment against an administration that speaks about protecting and safeguarding the rights of our children?

I understand that this is one of the measures yet to be implemented. Let me explain to you, Madam President. Do you know how we define a child in this Act, which is an amendment to the Children Act, 46:01? In this Act a child is a person who is 18 years and under. So if a child is 18 years and under, why has the Government not taken measures—[*Interruption*] [*Sen. Jeremie rises*]

Sen. Jeremie: Madam President, on a point of order. The Senator is referring to the children's package, which speaks to a host of legislation relating to the rights of the child. Standing Order 35(1) says that a Senator should confine his observations to the subject under discussion. The subject under discussion this afternoon is the Miscellaneous Provisions (Minimum Age for Admission to Employment) Bill of 2006. The Senator is straying off that subject.

Madam President: I have been listening to the Senator and trying to decide what direction he was going. I think that, at this point, I have to agree with the Attorney General, Senator, in that, you have gone way off the Bill. I was giving you a chance when you were talking about age, et cetera, but, at this point, you need to come back to the age of employment, please.

Sen. W. Mark: I want to draw your attention to clause 4 of the Bill, which deals with the Children Act, 46:01. So if you look at this Bill, it deals with children. It is about the Children Act; that is one of the amendments that the Minister is proposing. So there is a link between my contribution and the Children Act that is contained in the legislation. [*Desk thumping*] I do not think the AG is right on this one, Madam President. [*Crosstalk*]

Madam President: I need you to make that linkage.

Sen. W. Mark: Madam President, like me, when I was in that Chair, I exercised great patience.

Hon. Senators: Ooh! [*Crosstalk*]

Sen. W. Mark: No, I will never disrespect my President; never. I love my President too much. [*Laughter*] [*Crosstalk*]

I was trying to indicate to the hon. Minister some of the areas, in addition to what he has here, that he needs to consider. He has brought four measures to be looked at in an effort to give effect to this particular provision that he is putting forward. I am advancing that the Education Act, section 76(1), needs to be looked at, if this thing is to have some kind of consistency. I am also advising that the hon. Minister take a look at the Industrial Training Act as well, under the heading of apprentices. I believe that sections 1 and 11 are pertinent to him in terms of ensuring that when we are dealing with this new provision, it is reflected across the board. So I am just advising that there are certain areas that the Minister may have genuinely overlooked. I am bringing these areas to his and your attention, Madam President.

There is a trend which shows that young people are entering the labour market at a later age. Globally, participation rates for young people—and when we talk of young people, we mean persons between the ages of 15 and 24—fell by some 4 per cent between 1993 and the end of 2003, based on my research. These figures can differ in terms of our own national experience. Why are young people staying longer in school, as an example?

There are many factors that could account for the lower participation rates of our youths in the labour market. Some people have argued that there is a problem as it relates to the transition from the world of education and school, to the world of work. As a matter of fact, I would like to advise the hon. Minister, if he has not seen this report, that I think he ought to obtain a copy of a report entitled, “The Transition of Jamaican Youth to the World of Work Report Prepared by the Human Development Unit” by the Planning Institute of Jamaica. This really deals with the transition from school to the workplace. That is an area I would like to ask the Minister of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development about. [*Interruption*]

Sen. Yuille-Williams: Just a question. You just asked a question. I was not quite clear on it. I am trying to follow you as closely as I can; it is a little difficult. Are you asking why our children are staying longer in school?

Sen. W. Mark: I am talking about on a global scale, not here in Trinidad and Tobago. It appears that the participation rates for young people are falling.

Madam President: Participation in work?

Sen. W. Mark: In the labour market. I am talking about globally, but in our region, as an example, the literature is showing that the rates of participation for youths, between 1995 and the end of 2005, fell by 4 per cent. [*Interruption*]

Sen. Yuille-Williams: Participation in what?

Sen. W. Mark: The labour market. It fell by 16 per cent in Jamaica.

As we seek to raise the legal minimum age for work, remember we are talking about the legal minimum age for work, there is need for us to strengthen this labour market trend; especially for the disadvantaged youth. [*Crosstalk*] I hope the hon. Minister will take action to effect measures to make education compulsory up to the age of 16.

Sen. Yuille-Williams: I cannot follow you.

Sen. W. Mark: It is a very complex subject. If you have not studied it, I will understand that that is why you are lost. This is something I did some research on. The Minister is lost, but I cannot detain myself because she has not studied the matter. If she had done the research that I did, she would have been able to follow. [*Crosstalk*] [*Laughter*] We suggest to the hon. Minister that there is need for us to look at the Industrial Training Act and the Education Act. Let us go to the Factories Act.

The Government in its report, I think through the Ministry of the Attorney General—not this Attorney General, the one that is in Port of Spain at some conference at Hilton hotel. [*Interruption*]

Sen. Jeremie: There is no Attorney General at work in Port of Spain.

Sen. W. Mark: I am talking about Glenda Morean; she is at the Hilton Hotel in her capacity as High Commissioner. I am talking about the former Attorney General. You see, Madam President, when I speak about the former AG submitting this report, he argued and said, “No, I am not responsible; is Glenda Morean.” I am going back to the report and before I mention the Attorney General, I am saying Glenda Morean, former Attorney General.

Sen. Jeremie: You did not say that.

Sen. W. Mark: You would not allow me to speak; you interrupt me all the time. [*Laughter*] [*Crosstalk*]

Madam President, this is what the Government of Trinidad and Tobago said in its report to the committee that deals with the Convention on the Rights of the Child; a 472-page report submitted in June of 2003 to this committee. In an effort to deal with the problems and challenges faced by children and young people, it was suggested that the Factories Ordinance—there are two sections to that Ordinance, I tried locating them, but I could not. Section 32 talks about a young person not being employed to lift, carry or move any load so heavy as to be likely to cause injury to him.

We have defined what a young person is in this legislation. Under section 43 of the Factories Ordinance it says:

“No child shall be employed in any factory or in the business of a factory outside a factory or in any business, trade or process ancillary to the business of a factory.”

I suggest the Minister looks at these provisions, because he may need to delete those sections or enhance them so it is clearly defined, so that employers will know exactly what they can and cannot do. I wanted to just raise that matter with the hon. Minister of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development.

Madam President, I am very concerned. I go now to clause 92(1). In Barbados today—and it has happened to me—I find that Barbadian citizens drive very slowly on the roads. Because of my culture of speed, I would hoot my horn to get them to go faster, but I now understand why they drive so slowly. Do you know what the fine for driving beyond the speed limit is? It is BDO \$10,000, which is almost US \$6,000. Could you imagine a Trinidadian having to speed in Barbados and having to speed to the bank at the same time to find US \$6,000?

When you are instituting fines as a deterrent to criminals who are posing as employers and exploiting our children, you have to deal with them very sternly. I refer to section 92 of the Bill. First of all an employer is compelled, under this legislation, to keep a register to ensure that all persons under the age of 18 are, in fact, recorded. This register shall be shown upon request to an inspector of the Ministry of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development, but it goes on in subsection (3), it states:

“An employer who fails to comply with this section is liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of one thousand dollars.”

Tell me, in the year 2006, where we are told that there are so many people who are employing children between the ages of 12 and 14 years, in a period where we are trying to effect the provisions of the Convention, how we can propose this measly fine of \$1,000? That is not a deterrent.

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I propose to the hon. Minister that he considers a fine of \$100,000. If we are to protect our children from exploitation, from criminals posing as employers, in many instances, I suggest that we cannot go with a measly \$1,000. I would like the Minister to consider a \$100,000 fine against all employers who employ persons under the age of 18 years in this country. [*Desk thumping*] We can always negotiate, because I am a trade unionist myself, but I propose this outer limit.

Madam President, in looking at section 92A, I never knew that a minister had the power to assign anyone who works within the Public Service of Trinidad and Tobago. I do not know where the Attorney General or the Minister of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development has gotten this power from. I will read for you what 92A says. I am the Minister of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development; in this instance, my honourable friend is responsible. The section states:

“(1) The Minister to whom responsibility for labour is assigned may designate in writing a suitably qualified public officer as an inspector in his Ministry.”

No minister of government has this power under the laws of this country to assign any public office as an inspector. This is totally wrong! It is contrary to the laws of the country. The only person I know who can assign persons responsibility in terms of—[*Interruption*]

Sen. Jeremie: Just on a point of clarification. I heard the Senator mention from afar something about the Attorney General designating officers.

Sen. W. Mark: No, I said the Minister; not you; sorry about that. If you heard that, I am sorry. It was not you. I apologize sincerely to my friend if he overheard something wrong. [*Laughter*]

Sen. Jeremie: I did not overhear something wrong.

Sen. W. Mark: I thought you heard something wrong. I am just correcting you; it is not that. You always want to rise and speak whilst I am speaking. [*Laughter*]

Sen. Jeremie: Only to help you, because I love you.

Sen. W. Mark: The hon. Minister may have been misadvised on this provision. I ask him to honourably delete it. He is getting into an area that is only given to the Public Service Commission of Trinidad and Tobago. The Minister, through his Permanent Secretary (PS), if he wants to restructure his organization,

if he wants to put new classifications into existence, he can meet with the Public Services Association and they can sit together and work on these matters. Do you know what the end result of this is, logically speaking? Let us say that I am a labour officer in the Ministry of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development; this provision is saying that the Minister could assign me. So I am a labour inspector, but the hon. Minister tells me in writing, "I want you to be an inspector tomorrow." The Minister does not have that power under our Constitution. So Minister, whoever advised you on this "ting", you should fire "dem". [*Laughter*] This is wrong.

Sen. Abdul-Hamid: "He doh have dat power either."

Sen. W. Mark: Well I said that in a very jocular way; I know he does not have that power. This is wrong, so I will like the Minister to delete that clause completely from the legislation.

I also want to advise my honourable colleague that the only way you can police this new measure, where you are seeking to increase, quite properly, the employment admission age from 14 years to 16 years—if I had the power, I would go to 17 years; you know in some countries they have gone to that age. [*Interruption*] I think it is where compulsory education is concerned. Some countries have it up to 21 years, Sen. Dr. Saith. Could you imagine that? [*Crosstalk*]

In Trinidad and Tobago, as a trade unionist, I know that we have a workforce of 630,000 and above; less than 25 per cent are in organized trade unions. Close to 75 per cent of the workers in the republic of Trinidad and Tobago, are left to the whims and fancies of employers; we are talking about close to 400,000 people. [*Interruption*]

Sen. Dr. Saith: Less than 6 per cent.

Sen. W. Mark: No, that is a bogus figure. We will deal with that on another occasion. I will move a motion on that at the appropriate time.

Madam President, there is a restaurant called Chinese Wok in Chaguanas. Minister of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development, I will like you to send your inspectors there. The merciless, brutal and callous exploitation of workers takes place there. Do you know how much they pay the workers there? Less than \$6 an hour, even though the minimum wage is \$9; no vacation leave, no sick leave, no casual leave; if you get injured on the job, you have no compensation to get. These people are operating in this country. I would like the Minister to send a labour inspector to inspect the books.

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I heard that they have three sets of books, so you need a warrant to take control of Chinese Wok. You cannot be exploiting our people so, “man”. The reason I raised the question of inspectors is because you would see in section 92 that the inspector has to inspect the register to ensure that the employer is complying with the law.

Hon. Minister, how many labour inspectors do we have in the Ministry of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development? I could be wrong, but I understand that it is less than 20. I ask the Minister to correct me when he is winding up. How can you have 20 labour inspectors to supervise workers who are unorganized in Trinidad and Tobago, close to over 400,000 workers, who are left to the whims, fancies and brutality of employers in this country? You need more inspectors. If you do not get more inspectors, this measure will have no effect.

While we are debating measures today to increase the age of admission to employment, the Minister of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development and the Government should take measures to, first of all, establish the relevant and necessary support mechanisms and services to deal with those children who have no choice but to go and work. Do you know why? They are riddled in poverty. Their mothers and fathers have died. Sometime their mothers and fathers do not have proper jobs, so they take their children out of school in order to supplement their income. There is crushing and grinding poverty in this country of plenty. Plenty people are dying and suffering; not dying literally, but dying slowly, because of malnutrition and under-nutrition in this country.

So how can you seek to police this measure, if the Minister is not given sufficient allocation to employ more labour inspectors? Hon. Minister, you need nothing less than 200 labour inspectors to properly police these places to ensure that violations do not take place; not 12, not 20, not 30. You need about 200 labour inspectors. *[Interruption]* *[Sen. Yuille-Williams rises]*

Madam President: Would you give way?

Sen. Yuille-Williams: I am one of those who looked very closely at the legislation, before it even came here. In section 92A(1), where you said that the Minister of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development should not be given that power and afterwards, I heard you asking for the Minister to send inspectors. Try and clear up that area for me, please. I am just trying to get the legislation correct. We looked at it before it came here and, probably, we were wrong.

Sen. W. Mark: All I am saying to the honourable Senate is that whilst the measure might be proper and meaningful and the Government might have its good intentions, it will not work. It will not be worth the paper it is written on. We

would have that on paper, but in terms of enforcement, done. That is what you call “ditto”. Attorney General, ditto; nothing will take place after that, because the Minister is powerless. [*Interruption*]

Sen. Jeremie: You are using ditto in the wrong context.

Sen. W. Mark: “Doh disturb meh about dat, nuh; ah teasing yuh, man.” “Is everything yuh get up for?”

Sen. Jeremie: Yes.

Sen. W. Mark: You are a funny “fella”.

Sen. Dr. Gopeesingh: Do not be so sensitive.

Sen. W. Mark: This measure is commendable; if the UNC was in office, we would have done this long before. This is five years too late, but we welcome the measure.

As we go on to the other sections, we see in section 92B:

“(1) An inspector may at a reasonable time and with the permission of the owner...”

So if the owner does not permit you inside, you now have to go to the President or Vice-President of the Industrial Court to get a warrant to enter his store. Maybe the Minister could explain why in section 92(3) we have summary conviction and \$1,000, but when it comes to going into the premises where a person under 18 years is employed and there is no book or record and so on, if the particular individual refuses entry to me as a labour inspector, I can then pursue that matter at the level of the Industrial Court now? [*Interruption*]

Madam President: Hon. Senators, the speaking time of the hon. Senator has expired.

Motion made, That the hon. Senator's speaking time be extended by 15 minutes. [*Hon. J. Jeremie*]

Question put and agreed to.

Sen. W. Mark: I am always afraid when Greeks bear gifts. I have my worry, [*Laughter*] but in the circumstances I will bow.

Madam President, I will like the hon. Minister to indicate to us why he has moved from section 92, a summary conviction, \$1,000, and later on he has gone to the Industrial Court to ask the President to issue a warrant to an inspector if he

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or she is refused entry by an employer. I do not understand why the switch. I do not know if he is trying not to criminalize these people. I will like him to clarify the matter as we go on.

What I find very interesting is when you look at section 94. It should be a criminal offence, but that could only become a criminal offence if the Government of Trinidad and Tobago puts in place all the relevant, necessary and appropriate social support services to deal with those children who are under age and forced to work. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the State, has a duty to intervene and to provide support to those children who are under 16 years of age. Their father may have died; their mother may have been murdered; they are orphans. Who will come to their rescue, but the Government? The Government has to intervene and provide the social services and support mechanisms to rescue these children to allow them to continue school, so they can grow into dentists and doctors and lawyers and all the greats that we know that make a great civilization. [*Laughter*]

I find section 94 to be a bit weak. Section 94 says that if a parent does this, he or she is guilty of an offence. In 94A it states:

“Where the offence of taking a child under the age of sixteen years into employment is committed by an agent...”

That is an offence. If you go to 94B, it is the same thing: guilty of an offence. I looked all over the place for the penalties. Where are the penalties, hon. Minister in the instance of sections 94A and 94B? Where are the sanctions for this kind of thing? You are telling us that somebody who does X or Y is guilty of an offence, but when we look for the sanctions or penalties they are nowhere to be seen. I will like the hon. Minister to tell us where the sanctions are; we need sanctions.

As I am on this matter of economic exploitation; this is a report that was issued by the committee dealing with the rights of a child. It was in response to this big document. They have told the Government of Trinidad and Tobago that for its next report in January 2009 they must only give 120 pages; they do not want 472 pages, in the future. [*Interruption*]

It is a lot of words like you; you talk tough, but talking tough is cheap, because there is no action to follow. One set of bravado: “he go do this, he go do that and the other and then he boil down like bhaji; nothing.” “He fraid Julien, yuh know.” “Tackle Julien; yuh fraid?” [*Laughter*]

Madam President: Senator, come back to the Bill, please.

Sen. W. Mark: We will deal with Ken Julien on another platform; the czar.

Madam President, I refer you to page 13 of this report. The heading is “Economic Exploitation”. The Minister made reference to Convention 182 and Convention 138, I think. In this instance I want to read what the committee said at paragraph 61:

“The Committee, despite the State party’s ratification in April of the ILO Convention on Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, remains concerned that the domestic legislation on child labour are not sufficiently enforced,...

This international report is on the website; Minister, you could download it; I downloaded it. The whole world is being told that we have ratified the Convention, but there is weak enforcement. Further to that it states:

“and that there is no specific programme in place to protect children from exploitative labour.”

This is what the Committee on the Rights of the Child at the United Nations is saying in this report; there is no mechanism to protect our children from child labour and exploitation. Where is the legislation to deal with that or the other mechanisms?

The report continues:

“The Committee expresses concern about the low minimum age for employment, which is currently set at 12. The Committee is also concerned about the 16 to 18 year olds who work in sugar factories at night.”

Hear what they have recommended, which is why I think the Minister has brought this Bill. The Minister did not bring this here by accident. This was forced on him and on the Government. This report was submitted in 2003. The Government has been told by this committee to do the following:

“a) Raise the minimum age for employment to the level required by ILO Convention 138;”

Which is 16 years; it is here today. I do not know when this one is coming.

“b) Adopt appropriate measures, including legislative measures, to prevent and eliminate unlawful work and to implement ILO Convention 182;

c) Make every effort, including taking preventative measures, to ensure that those children who engage in lawful domestic work do not work under conditions which are harmful to them and continue to have access to education;

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- d) Implement all policies and legislation relevant to child labour...through campaigns and education for the public on the protection of the rights of children.”

This particular committee has informed the Government of what it needs to do. The Government needs to amend, simultaneously with what we have here, the Education Act and the Industrial Training Act.

What did the report on child abuse in this country say in conclusion? This report looked at scavenging, agriculture, domestic work, prostitution and pornography. It says that these things exist in this country and that there is need for:

“...a more comprehensive determination of what constitutes hazardous work...The findings, however, demonstrate the harsh and dangerous circumstances child labourers face daily. Dengue fever infections and accidental deaths have occurred in landfill sites, victims of commercial sex exploitation have been stabbed and infected with HIV/AIDS and other STDs; domestic workers face physical and sexual abuse. In spite of their adjustment to their circumstances all child workers yearn for more fruitful lives and dream of ‘nice houses and better jobs’.”

3.00 p.m.

Madam President, this report went on to indicate that there are some push factors that are driving these children into these activities: poverty, physical abuse, sexual abuse, delinquent fathers, single-parent households, poor parenting practices, low level of education, and a lack of social support systems for vulnerable groups.

Madam President, it means that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has a duty and a responsibility if it is serious about this measure that it has brought to this Parliament today. The Government has a duty to put into effect mechanisms, institutions and support systems to ensure that those children who are vulnerable and exposed to exploitation are protected by the State. The State is not protecting our children, it is contributing to their abuse and the time has come for the Government to stop pussyfooting. If you look at this report, it is sad in terms of what is said in conclusion.

In concluding this report it said the committee recommends that the State party, that is Trinidad and Tobago, take all appropriate measures to ensure full implementation of the present recommendations *inter alia* by transmitting them to the Members of the Council of Ministers of Cabinet, or similar body and to the Parliament.

Dr. Saith, this committee on The Rights of the Child called on your Government to make this report available to the Members of Parliament. It is here in its concluding remarks. Madam President, I had to go on the website to download this information because the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is in violation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. So Dr. Lenny Saith and Minister Yuille-Williams—Madam President, I would like to call on the Government. I was able to download this report which is 472 pages long. This is the report that the Government submitted and these are the concluding remarks and recommendations of the committee. Both are supposed to be made available to Members of Parliament, each Member is supposed to get a copy of this report.

Madam President, we have not got any—I wish I had an hour and a half. Madam President, we would like to tell the Government that this measure of moving from 14 to 16 years, while it is consistent with the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 138, it will not work unless the Government does two things; it must be able to have more support mechanisms in place to ensure that children are taken care of, and more importantly, the Government must take measures to ensure that it has sufficient numbers of labour inspectors to police the legislation.

Thank you, Madam President.

Sen. Prof. Ramesh Deosaran: Madam President, this piece of legislation is extremely timely for several reasons; one important reason being the deliberate expansion of secondary and tertiary education opportunities for our young people around the age of 16 years. I would have hoped that the Minister might have given us a more persuasive presentation in terms of the justification because there is a justification for raising the age limit to 16 years.

In fact, that is an open door, most of us know about it, but he should have put it on record that there are economic, psychological, and social reasons for extending the age from 14 to 16 apart from the ILO implications. So I welcome the Bill and I am still looking forward, hopeful as I am, and perhaps some of us on the Independent Benches might hope that the Minister gives some more justifiable basis for bringing this very timely Bill.

I must also say it is quite a good Bill because it relates to the set of parent Acts and I would leave another colleague, Sen. Seetahal, S.C. to look at the compatibility. I am quite sure she will do a good job in looking at the compatibility between this legislation and the parent Act.

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On this occasion, I must make reference to my colleague Sen. Mark, my dear friend, with long years of friendship. I commend him on his exhaustive contribution; there was enlightenment in it and, of course, one of the reasons being the Bill is right up his labour alley as it were. We know of his history and passion for the labour movement and such other things, and we do hope that perhaps that passion could be manifested in more political terms. I thank him for his intervention, there are some issues he has raised which occupy my mind as well and which I will not belabour except to make brief reference to, and encourage the Government to take steps to remedy those gaps.

One important point which he made is the question of the inspectorate. Bringing a law is half of the story and enforcing it is perhaps the more critical part of it. How many times do we have to say so in this Parliament and in other parts of the country? What is the present situation with those 14-year-olds and the incidence of offences? In other words, how many offences have been detected by the present inspectorate in the present situation?

Certainly—and I say so with respect—if the Minister had perhaps presented some figures to show us that the inspectorate is capable of doing its work, or if perhaps it is doing its work and there are no offences or something to that effect. But I will tell you later on where there are situations of boys and girls working and are being exploited and I have not heard much from the labour inspectorate, or the Ministry of Labour and Cooperatives although there are rules governing, or against such exploitation. You hear from the police which puts it in a different realm because this Bill is designed to prevent exploitation. The police work is to prosecute. I would prefer that the inspectorate do its job before the police could intervene. Why do I say that?

Madam President, in looking at the connection between school dropouts and those who end up at youth training centres and other juvenile homes, we found that many 14-year-olds leave school, and quite surprisingly 15-year-olds too. Now it would be illegal. Now 14-, 13- and even 12-year-olds have been caught working in places where they are not supposed to even visit, far worse to work in, and the police report told us that this connection of dropping out of school, running away from homes, and being beyond control at home are matters of serious, social policy concern. That is why we welcome the legislation.

It is difficult of course, to get data to back up social legislation; it is even more difficult to enforce it because as you will see in the later clauses of the Bill there is a question of the invasion of privacy and people's businesses. I thought Sen. Mark was going to talk about the invasion of privacy and the need for a special

majority, but, be that as it may, I think the inspectorate should really look at these massage parlours, escort services, and brothels and ensure that the workers carry a birth certificate apart from the fact of the register by the employer. The police records have shown us that there are many under age girls working in these places and it is a matter that needs very urgent attention not only in terms of labour exploitation, but with respect to the transmission of sexual diseases, including AIDS, at an early age.

In the case of the youth training centre and juvenile homes for example, 60 per cent of 11-, 12-, 13-, and 14-year-olds who are in those homes have reached there because they have either run away from home, or the police found them on their parents' complaint to be beyond control. When you have about 600 such young persons—I would not call the names of the juvenile homes, but there were four of them including the youth training centre pertinent to this age group—if 60 per cent are beyond control and running away from home, we have to sit back and wonder about how we can make the legislation effective enough to capture those youngsters. That is why I found Sen. Mark's contribution quite pertinent because he raised the question that not everybody has a proper parent or guardian at home so as to take the straight and narrow path towards further education and other such sustenance.

Some of these young people have to fend for themselves, some of these 14- and 15-year-olds are now on the streets living by themselves and that is just part of our tracer study. We have not completed it yet, but these are the indicators that do not make the future look too bright except that we are hopeful enough that such legislation and a very vigilant inspectorate could heal some of these serious breaches.

Sen. Mark is right again when he said if there is a necessity for a 14- or 15-year-old to work in view of his or her destitute condition and lack of parenting and the only means of survival is to work in restaurants, or some unskilled labour which is another issue, I think this is where the Government should intervene and lend some economic and social support. I do not know if there is need for a special social configuration in addition to what the Ministry of Social Development already has, and I believe there are about 200 social programmes targeting different groups. I do not know if, on reflection, there can be a special programme to target this vulnerable group so that the legislation will have meaning and you would not want to prosecute those who are there because of necessity.

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Alongside that, the Government has expanded its secondary education system so much that I believe we have to make the connection between—and again Sen. Mark is correct—schooling and employment. In schools, all these opportunities with MuST, HYPE, and Civilian Conservation Corps being available, to justify the 16 year age limit, these youngsters under that limit should be more keenly aware of these opportunities, especially those opportunities that carry with them social and economic mobility rather than merely going into a job where the cycle of poverty would be perpetuated; that is, you are carrying on the job your grandfather had or what your parents had and you keep recycling.

In this democratic society and this day and age, there are so many opportunities people have to learn, especially in certain depressed areas—and I can tell you from the evidence in some of these depressed areas that the vision is very short, the goals are virtually absent but you find in other areas and other kinds of schools, a more—as you may say—prestigious level of aspiration. It is almost automatic. I need say no more except to say that whilst there are opportunities, that is not enough; we have to make the connection and engineer it between those who really need those opportunities; and that they are getting them actually, so that the age limit we now create would be justifiable.

Madam President, with respect to the age, I think the Minister of Education is correct; they are indeed looking at compulsory school age. The ministry is also aware that a recommendation was made about three years ago to raise the compulsory school age to 15, and having heard the hon. Minister speak about a committee, I believe in the interest of this legislation, the Ministry of Education should perhaps make its compulsory school age compatible with the legislation. Given its intake in secondary schools, whereby all children of secondary school age now have an opportunity to go to secondary schools, I think it is a good opportunity for the Ministry of Education to make the compulsory school age up to 16 years in this country. It will therefore make a beautiful compatibility with what the Government has with this policy and that in the Education Act, which is 12 year old.

I have always found that 12-year-old limit in this day and age too minimal, but there are other reasons. If you have legal control over 13-, 14- and 15-year-old children, you can invoke laws to keep them off the streets. You can also invoke laws against parents and guardians who are not accountable, to some extent, for the whereabouts of their children. That is a different story I know, but what it would do if you make the compulsory school age at 16, is to give further jurisdiction over the whereabouts and the future of those 13-, 14-, and 15-year-olds. [*Desk thumping*] And it will therefore, in my respectful view be a well integrated social policy where this legislation could then take off.

Then the legislation itself, a Bill to amend the law relating to the minimum age for admission to employment in Trinidad and Tobago, there are several sections which speak about a parent being accountable and a parent or guardian being held.

Madam President, the story with that can be told from the operation of the Education Act of 1966. In that Act, there are so many references made to parents being accountable for this and that and very little, in fact, nothing is being enforced. There are School Attendant Officers in the Act who are supposed to go around and see if these children are in pool halls, cinemas, brothels, or bars with video games. I am not a police officer, but I drive around and I see 12-, 13- and 14-year-old children playing video games during school time. This is a day and age when temptations for young persons have intensified and, therefore, parental and public vigilance must also be intensified but there is a big gap. So I am saying with all the provisions made in the Education Act, apart from having parents accountable—and it does say that parents should be accountable or taken to court if the child is not attending school without a legitimate reason.

If the child misses school without good reason, or is caught wandering in the streets without good reason, the law says in the Education Act that the parent should be accountable. I did not write it, but I have noticed on one or two occasions when I mentioned this in public the reaction has been severe. As with most things in this country every time you talk about bringing law, order and discipline into the country, some pocket of resistance always raises its head with some mumbo jumbo resistance, and I find it a peculiar country which makes it so difficult to govern and enforce the law.

Parents must be held accountable just as you expect them to be accountable in this legislation, but if the pattern and the precedence we have from the Education Act have been observed more in the breach than in the practice, then I think the fate of this Bill will suffer similarly. What else can I say? We have to buck up and enforce the law even if it means enforcing the law against parents who seem to have little or no control for no good reason over their children. So 60 per cent of them end up at YTC and all these other juvenile homes because the parents take their 11- and 12-year-old children to the police station and say they cannot control the child. Well, if you as a parent cannot control the child, who else do you expect to do so? And if somebody else gets guardianship of that child, what is the future of that child? The love and affection of a parent can never be substituted, but we have lost much of that.

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Some parents, of course, have difficulty in looking after their children but the reasons must be justifiable and that is where the Government's social programme must intervene. I would therefore reiterate the need for the Education Act to be reviewed precisely and do not wait for any committee report. This can be done in one day's time. The justification arises from this Bill to make the Education Act compatible with this Bill, the Minister, by a stroke of a hand can recommend to the Attorney General to make the proper amendment overnight. So I do not think we should wait for any committee to raise it up to 18 or whatever, bring it immediately and let us show the country that the Government means business in this particular case.

The question of penalties was raised and certainly \$1,000 is really a joke for the social implications of the offence for young persons. I think that the fine could amount to \$100,000 as Sen. Mark said, but I would reach there a step at a time. I would say \$10,000 for every single offence, but we cannot live with \$1,000 it does not send the correct message about the importance and implications of the legislation. I suggest \$10,000 for each offence, meaning each person under the age of 16 could comprise an offence, if you have three it is \$30,000, if you have 10 or 20, that is 20 by 10 which is \$200,000. I think that is a fairer and more justifiable way to go.

I am anxious to hear the Minister explain the part of the legislation with reference to 92(A) on page 8. Why is the Minister designated this function? It simply struck me as something anomalous. I do not know if it is an error or an explanation, but rather than pronouncing judgment, I would like to hear what the Minister has to say because certainly public administration of this kind lies in the hands of the permanent secretary down and also the Public Service Commission in terms of direction and function and so forth.

Sen. Montano: If I may, because that has now come up twice, rather than have it repeated, let me just explain that this does not mean that the Minister is appointing anybody, it merely means that he is designating someone who has been appointed and empowering him under the Act. That is all he is doing. We have similar provisions under the Minimum Wages Act and the Occupational Safety and Health Act which came through here quite recently, so it is not unusual. The appointment is made by the Service Commission and not by the Minister so it is in fact quite in order.

Sen. Prof. R. Deosaran: All right. Thank you, Mr. Minister. Madam President, that takes care of that at least for now. I want to reemphasize the point about Government looking at those children who, out of necessity may wish to

work, but they should be captured as it were into a social policy and care and let them do their proper schooling because that, to me, is one of the major objectives of the Bill.

You give these children under 16 years a proper opportunity to educate themselves to be skilled so that later on they would have productive, useful lives and be law-abiding citizens. They will have a sense of empowerment to improve their education because they would have gotten a good start by having to attend school and take advantage of the opportunities that the Government has outlined for them to improve their lives, and in some cases, get out of the cycle of poverty.

The Bill is very careful I must say, and quite properly so, that this law will not extend to those who have apprentices and interns who are learning a trade as part of their education for instance at the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC), or in oil companies. I will not elaborate; it is obvious to me that proper care is taken to ensure that we do not confuse employment with apprenticeship in terms of what the Bill seeks to do. I think this is a good caution but I would encourage the private sector agencies and statutory bodies to come in more effectively, more dynamically and absorb these young people as apprentices and interns and train their minds and skills in the way it used to happen as I said on the last occasion many years ago. Some of our best technicians and skilled craftsmen came through the City and Guilds exam out of T&TEC, and the oil companies such as Texaco, Shell and so forth. I think the private sector and the statutory boards should join with the Government in putting their best foot forward in this respect.

Finally, I want to reemphasize another point; the question of these clandestine exploitations in these brothels and massage parlours and I am citing these examples not because of my personal visit, but evidence from the police. I want to make it clear because I might have to answer elsewhere. It is very serious in terms of these exploitations because it is a dead end. Once you end up working there, that exploitation creates a dead end especially for girls, and it is in this state of having imported labour and the place as dead end with the Colombians here and the Chinese there, you do not know what can happen—to put it briefly without being offensive to our guests in this country—but we know what happens in other countries, those of us who visit, when you have migrant labour and the need to have recreation and a good time, and some of the people who suffer in the native land.

So Madam President, with those few remarks, I thank you very much.

Sen. Dr. Tim Gopeesingh: Madam President, I would begin my contribution with a simple quotation:

Just as very rough weather destroys the buds of spring, so does too early an experience of life's hard toil take the young promise of a child's faculties and render any true education impossible.

Madam President: Where is it quoted from?

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: I will give it after, I do not have it at the moment, but I remembered that somewhere and I did not get the proper quotation.

Children work because their survival and that of their families depend on it on a number of occasions and in some cases because unscrupulous adults take advantage of their vulnerabilities.

3.30 p.m.

Child labour is also due to weaknesses in our education system. It is also deeply rooted in social attitudes and traditions. We could remember that as younger children in agriculture, some families wanted to have 10 or 12 children so that they would be able to go into the rice fields and cane fields and assist their parents in producing rice and cutting canes. We could remember not too long ago in the sugar industry, children went with their parents to help cut the cane, gather the cane to make a ton of cane, and it was only with the advent of our now chairman of our party, who was then President of the All Trinidad and Tobago Sugar Workers Trade Union, that he fought desperately to ensure that children were taken away from the cane fields of Trinidad and Tobago and sent to school. I remember as a child going to assist my parents in the rice fields and transporting rice from the lagoons. This practice still continues today, to some extent, because families believe that more members of the family will create and increase wealth to their families.

So there was child labour, but within families, and that was allowed. But it is child labour. Child labour remains hidden from public awareness and view many times and, as such, it appears less of a priority. Child labour in its intolerable forms constitutes a kind of violence that is less obvious than other types of violence. It is violence beyond all political, economic and legal implications. It is terrible. The Minister has brought this Bill to increase the age of child labour from 14 to 16, which we welcome and which we will support, but Sen. Mark made an important contribution, that we have a plethora of confusion as far as age is concerned in a number of the laws and legislation. To some extent it was alleviated in the Miscellaneous Provisions (Children) Act, 2000—that was Act

No. 66 of 2000—when a number of laws dealt with the question of age. One was the Summary Offences Act and that Act was amended by deleting the words “fourteen years” and substituting the word “eighteen”. Then the Corporal Punishment Act indicated: “The Act means the corporal punishment for offenders not over sixteen”, and so on. Then there was the Corporal Punishment (Offenders Over Sixteen) Act; the Young Offenders Detention Act; the Age of Majority Act. All these Acts had, to some extent, the confusion of what is the required age for determining what is legal or illegal. There still exists some confusion in terms of the age for marriages in different religious sectors. I believe in the Hindu religion, for males it is 18 and for females it is 16. For the Islamic religion, I am not too sure but I believe there is a difference between the male and female in terms of marriage, and in the Christian religion, I believe it is above 18.

So here in Trinidad and Tobago, we have a number of laws with a confusion of age ranges and it would be good if someone from the Ministry of Legal Affairs can look at the question of harmonizing the ages for which these different Acts of Parliament are brought to the public so we will undoubtedly understand that for most Acts of Parliament a particular age 18 is the age, even for marriage, for offenders, for voting, even for drivers, so there should be no confusion. I believe the age for getting a driver’s permit is 17. So why is there that confusion existing in Trinidad and Tobago when we can do something about eradicating it, in terms of determination of what the age is for a particular purpose? So as we welcome this piece of legislation from 14 to 16, we would also welcome some degree of analysis, introspection and purposeful study by the legal drafting people in conjunction with the Ministry of Legal Affairs, to harmonize all these different ages so that we will not be confused as a population.

It is important to get a picture of what is happening worldwide as far as child labour is concerned. UNICEF, under the heading “Child Protection from Violence and Exploitation and Abuse”, on January 12, 2006, at page one, “Child Labour”, which we are speaking about today, stated:

“An estimated 246 million children are engaged in child labour (around the world).”

And we have a population of six billion. Of those, almost three quarters—171 million—work in hazardous situations or conditions, such as working in mines which we do not have here:

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“...working with chemicals and pesticides in agriculture...”

We do have some of that in Trinidad and Tobago where children are working with their parents in agriculture, particularly in planting agricultural produce or working with dangerous machinery. But I think in Trinidad and Tobago we do not allow our children to go into that:

“They are everywhere, but invisible, toiling as domestic servants in homes, labouring behind the walls of workshops, hidden from view in plantations. Millions of girls work as domestic servants and unpaid household help and are especially vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

Millions of others work under horrific circumstances. They may be are trafficked...”

Thank God we do not have trafficking here in the Caribbean:

“forced into debt bondage or other forms of slavery (5.7 million), forced into prostitution and/or pornography (1.8 million) or recruited as child soldiers in armed conflict (300,000).”

You see that in the Middle East. However, the vast majority of child labourers, 70 per cent or more, work in agriculture.

Child labour exploitation represents a serious violation of human dignity and therefore it is incumbent upon us in Trinidad and Tobago to ensure that that does not take place, whatsoever. My colleague was asking for a more serious fine to be imposed on those who offend. We really do not agree with the \$1,000 fine. We believe it should be more than that. But to effect imposition of fines, and so on, necessitates, to some extent, a careful ability to monitor and value the situation. My colleague again made the point that he believes that we have only about 20 labour inspectors. We would like the hon. Minister, if at all possible, to let us know whether there is any requirement by the labour ministry for all businesses to register with the labour ministry. We know that businesses register with the National Insurance Board, and employers have to register with the NIB, because if they are found not in concordance with the laws regarding employees' contributions to NIB, they would be penalized. So we believe that most of the employers and businesses will be registered with the National Insurance Board. But we want to know whether that cannot be extended to registration with the labour ministry. In that way when we do an analysis of our workforce and we have to determine where our people are needed for employment, that would give us some scientific analysis in terms of data collection; where most of the people are working; where we need people to be working and where there are deficiencies in the workforce.

So it would be good to have the same type of registration of employees and businesses that are registered with the NIB, within the Ministry of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development. It is really important that the Ministry of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development move ahead very fast to ensure that it increases its human resource capacity in terms of its ability to monitor and evaluate the situation out there as far as the labour force is concerned. Because how are we to know how many young ones below the age of 16 are employed in workplaces and are being hidden by their employers and employees? So why not employ a registry within the Ministry of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development?

I read recently an International Federation of Trade Unions Report to the WTO on child labour and pay equity, which was reported on Trinidad and Tobago. That was in September 2005. It would be important for the hon. Minister and Members of the Senate to understand what this report said. It was submitted to the WTO on Trinidad and Tobago at Brussels on September 14, 2005. The report showed the need for substantial improvement in the application and enforcement of core labour standards, in particular with regard to child labour and pay equity. The report further shows some degree of child labour in Trinidad and Tobago. So we must be aware of it.

Around 1.2 per cent of children are estimated to be engaged in paid work. So if we consider children under age 16, 1.2 per cent of that will at least be 1.2 per cent of 100,000, so at least 1,200 are employed in paid work. The International Labour Organization assessments have found worse forms of child labour in existence—that is in Trinidad and Tobago—such as prostitution, scavenging—you know, we have the problem with the dumps; Beetham and South—agricultural work and domestic work, all of which expose children to harsh and dangerous situations. Others work as shelf packers, gardeners, car washers—we see them around—assistant mechanics and shop assistants. They often toil long hours for low and irregular earnings. This is a report to WTO in September 2005.

So the world knows that we are having some difficulties here and as we bring this piece of legislation the areas that are mentioned here are very difficult to monitor. Therefore there is an extra need for adding the human resource capacity to ensure that monitoring and evaluating take place in these areas where the young ones are extremely vulnerable.

A US Department of State Country Report for Trinidad and Tobago also wrote some important findings, particularly for Trinidad and Tobago. That report by the US Department of State, Country Report, was on a website for 2006 and it is

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reported as “Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2005”, released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labour, March 08, 2006. It states:

“Despite these laws being enacted there does not seem to be the political will in reality. A lack of funds and expanding social needs...”

I do not think we have the lack of funds so that could be an anomalous statement.

“challenge the Government's ability to carry out its commitment to protect the rights and welfare of children.”

This is the United States report:

“Education is free, compulsory and universal up to the age of 12.”

Two of our senatorial colleagues mentioned the dire necessity for bringing this age for compulsory education to the age of 16 years as well, because what happens to the child if the child decides not to go to school, or the parent decides to stop the child from school at age 12? There are no legislative measures to compel the parent to send that child to school between 12 and 16. When that child is not in school, the child finds a lot of idle things to do and this is where we might be having the question of the gang-related problems, when they drop out of school and have nothing to do; they have low self-esteem and move into gangs between the ages of 12 to 18. You see it every day on the television. It is a very sad thing for us as a country and as citizens, to witness the murders taking place among the youths in Trinidad and Tobago. It is a very painful thing for us who see it, far less the pain that is experienced by the parents of these young ones. Many of the young ones who are murdered probably do not have parents in Trinidad and Tobago and are being raised by their grandparents. So that is the end result of the fact that compulsory education stops at 12 and we should really ensure that it moves to 16.

Then there is the Coalition Against Domestic Violence-operated Child Line, which is a free and confidential telephone hotline with an email address and website for at-risk or distressed children and young persons. In 2004 Child Line received 3,184 calls; 74 per cent from girls and 26 per cent from boys. So we understand the depth and severity of the problems related to youth. The report also goes on to say:

“The Ministry of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development and the Social Services Delivery Unit...”

Madam Minister, this might be your unit, but they said it is the Social Services Delivery in the Office of the Prime Minister, but it may come under the Ministry of Social Services—

“are responsible for enforcing child labour provisions. However, enforcement was not consistent since there was no comprehensive Government policy on child labour and no formal mechanism for receiving, investigating and resolving child labour complaints.”

I want to repeat that:

“The Ministry of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development and the Social Services Delivery Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister are responsible for enforcing child labour provisions. However, that enforcement was not consistent since there was no comprehensive Government policy on child labour and no formal mechanism for receiving, investigating and resolving child labour complaints.”

That is of critical significance. So even though we pass the legislation to move it from age 14 to 16, we do not have the mechanisms where we could investigate, monitor and take appropriate action where necessary.

A 2004 study by the United Nations Children Fund estimated that 2 per cent of children from age five to 14 were engaged in paid work. That is a United Nations finding. There was another study which said 1.2 per cent, but the United Nations finding is 2 per cent. They said that the Government had not passed implementing legislation for the ILO Conventions 182 and 138, one of which we are dealing with today; both of which have to be ratified. So there are various reports that are looking critically at our child labour problems in Trinidad and Tobago and it is important to note what their recommendations and findings are in determining policies by the various ministries.

The most important thing in the findings seems to be that this administration does not seem to have the political will in reality to deal with the situation. This year, 2006, has seen some of the worst crimes perpetrated against children in Trinidad and Tobago. Sean Luke-Lumfai and Amy Annamunthodo are two that stand out. They have shocked and traumatized the nation. They are now before the courts so we really cannot comment. But what these issues brought to bear was the stark realization that the Government has spent the past four years ignoring children in this country and now we are seeing the damaging effects of it. As these reports point out, Government has no clear stated policy on children and this is why it has not done anything on the Children’s Authority Act. It does

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nothing to implement or finance any of its initiatives already put in place. It does not seem to care. When we analyze Vision 2020, it is without any vision for the human resource component in this country, without any inkling or semblance of a desire to take care of our children. Our society has really begun to see the devastating social consequences of Government that ignores and is indifferent to taking care of the children.

So no matter if we increase the age from 14 to 16, we need some strong commitment from the other side and from this administration that it is going to look into taking care of the children of Trinidad and Tobago, and the statistics are very revealing. We are struggling to get out of the quagmire of gang murders among the youth in Trinidad and Tobago on a daily basis; we are struggling against crime; decay of family lives where the young ones are left alone; teenage pregnancy; HIV rates.

I have worked among pregnant women all my life and when I go into the hospital clinics, which are public institutions, out of the 15 new patients that I may see at a clinic, at least 10 of them are young pregnant girls under the age of 16. You know that, Madam President. The law in Trinidad and Tobago is whoever impregnates a girl under the age of 16 is guilty of a major offence— whoever had sex. When I see these young girls, I ask to see the medical social worker, but there is no medical social worker. So what do we do? Can we call in the police immediately? These young girls will be left fatherless.

So here it is, we have laws in Trinidad and Tobago that are supposed to protect the young ones under 16 and they are not being enforced. By age 19, 1,000 young teenage girls would have had four children already in Trinidad and Tobago and most times for four different fathers. Teenage goes up to 19, but when we look at pregnancies below 16, it is a very devastating and catastrophic situation in terms of the figures that we have. It is only a matter of time before this Government sees the economic consequences of its heartlessness, its inability and its non-desire to deal with the situation.

4.00 p.m.

There is a saying which goes that every time a child is born it gives us hope that God is not yet disappointed in man because God has created a new one. It is our duty to care for and invest in our children and none must be left behind, regardless of race, colour, gender, class or age. This Government would keep on paying dearly if it continues along this route of deliberately ignoring the children of this land. It pains me to see these children fall by the wayside. With the help of

God, I bring them into this world. When I see the little ones grow from little babies, I see them as 3 mm in utero, to young ones; when they go astray by the hundreds it pains me to know they are the ones I took part in bringing forward into this world.

As a responsible nation, when we have so much wealth we must not allow this to happen. One of the main reasons is after a while the economic distress of a number of families, many mothers go abroad because they want to seek better financial remuneration and they cannot get proper jobs here. Thank God the education system is improving a bit; women are taking more education and there is less difficulty even with single parent households where women are at the helm. If I am not mistaken, about 30 per cent of the households in Trinidad are with a single parent and governed basically by the woman.

There are a substantial number of homes with absent fathers and mothers. We have a law which says that fathers who do not take care of their children could be prosecuted and sent in. There are fathers who boast that they have 17 children and they cannot take care of one. Why are we not ensuring that our laws are adhered to and implemented? But then, if we find a father amiss and he has not been paying to support his children, what do we do? Put him in jail and when you put him in jail, he becomes a hardened criminal and more dangerous to society? Some courts prescribe that some of these fathers only give \$100 to the mothers for a child. What would \$100 or \$200 per month do for a child? This is why some of these young ones have to work before the age of 14 years and that is a late age where they work. Child labour is prevalent throughout Trinidad and Tobago but you see more of it in rural areas, where the capacity to enforce the minimum age requirements for schooling and working is lacking.

As I said, children work for a variety of reasons and the most important being poverty. When a household is unable to meet its basic requirements for food and there is a young one 14 or 15 years at home, do you not think that that mother or grandmother where there are absent mothers may say, "If you can find a job somewhere try to help us and yourself," and the children would go out. If we pass a law saying that we are increasing the age from 14 to 16 years where children would not be able to work, we might be depriving many households from further income generation and rendering the poor, poorer. This has to be critically analyzed.

What is the solution to it? The solution to it is that we must train more and more persons in the field of social welfare so that we can have thousands of social welfare workers going through Trinidad and Tobago, visiting homes, institutions

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and determining where the poverty is. This is where the State has to come in with subsidies. *[Interruption]* No. Those are HYPE and MuST. We do not need those because they bring down the self-esteem of the young ones. Let us carry them to a type of employment where they would be proud. Let us educate them up to 16 years; ensure that they could go to O levels and A levels and do CAPE. Even if they do not want to go there, they can go to technical/vocational training whereby they can go back into a university system.

Sen. Dumas: “Yuh” trying to destroy that?

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: No. We are not destroying HYPE, MuST, YAPA and so on. We all know that some of these programmes are not working to the benefit of the improvement of the well-being of the young ones of Trinidad and Tobago. Schooling problems also contribute to child labour, whether it is inaccessibility of schools or the lack of quality education.

There are situations in Trinidad like the Biche High School that has been closed deliberately for years. Children have to spend one and a half hours on the roads in buses that are tumbling over and the children are vulnerable to injuries, to go to school when the Biche High School is right in their area. They have to get up at 5.00 a.m. to reach to school at 7.00 or 7.30 a.m. Our education system seems to be a punitive one. In certain junior secondary schools children are going in for two out of four weeks in the month; the other two weeks they are at home. How are we going to improve the quality of our citizens when the young ones are being deprived of their education which they ought to get and which the State ought to give them?

When we have only 3,000 students passing the examination out of 20,000 students writing the Secondary Examination Assessment (SEA), it means that 17,000 students have not reached any acceptable level of education to go to secondary school. What happens to them? Year after year, from 2001 to 2006, we have heard that we are going to build 600 early childhood education centres. The nurturing of these children takes place from the early age of 5 years. We do not have the early childhood education centres to give them the type of training in numeracy and literacy so that they could go to primary school and do well, so when they write the SEA, instead of 3,000 out of 20,000 students passing, we could have 20,000 out of 20,000. When these young ones who go to secondary schools are misfits because they did not get the proper education at primary level, but went through the process to go to secondary school, they would become dropouts. When we talk about child labour they would have to find employment before the age of 14 or 16 years because they would be out of school.

In addition to that, in the rural areas some parents cannot afford to give their children money for transportation to school. They keep them away from school two days a week and send them for three days of the week. Here is another group of students who have to seek some form of employment so that they could make a livelihood for themselves.

When we have working children and the conditions are severe, they would not be subjected to any type of stimulation for proper physical and mental development. These children develop a mindset that is different from the norm. They become psychologically deranged, psychotic and aggressive creating the problems of crime. It is no surprise that 50,000 citizens of Trinidad and Tobago have one form of psychotic or psychiatric disorder and are seen in the clinics. When we have 1,000 patients at St. Ann's Hospital, it is as a result of all these problems that people have encountered from young, the pressure on them as children in going through society and not being able to fit in, they have become psychologically wounded and psychotic in terms of their behavioural pattern.

Many children have to work to go to school. You would remember long ago children had to tie out their goats and cows and milk the cows before going to school. They benefited because they worked hard and knew what education was. We do not have that anymore. We do not have those types of children because of the type of society that we live in, where the young ones now see there is only need for a Reebok or Nike, or a jeans with some nice labelling. They want to go to school with that without the mindset of education.

They have absent parents and their poor grandparents cannot give them the type of guidance that they need to have. This is where the social programmes need to kick in. We need to identify those households with absent parents; where there are absent fathers who make 17 and 18 and "cyah" mind one. We hear them in the calypsoes on a yearly basis. Calypsonians say that they have 17 children. Is this the type of society that we are creating? This is an unmanageable and ungovernable society where there are 300,000 to 400,000 people who are unable to read or write properly and make a sentence.

How can they have a proper logic? We have created this! We have created that situation because of our failed education system over 30 years. It is useless to debate increasing the age from 14 to 16 years for child labour when there are so many pitfalls in the system operating in Trinidad and Tobago today. This is where the Ministry of Social Development has to come in and give subsidies.

Madam President: Hon. Senators, the speaking time of the hon. Senator has expired.

Motion made, That the hon. Senator's speaking time be extended by 15 minutes. [*Sen. W. Mark*]

Question put and agreed to.

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: Thank you, Senators.

Sen. Titus: Madam President, the Senator made a remark a minute ago about calypsonians bragging on a yearly basis that they have 17 and how many children? Is that something that somebody told you alone? Maybe you should clarify.

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: I think it would be unjust to the individual.

Sen. Titus: No. "Well, don't say calypsonians."

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: I am broad. [*Desk thumping*] There are some. [*Crosstalk*] There are some. I take back that. I withdraw that statement. Not all calypsonians on the whole, but there are one or two who have indicated to the national community that they have had 17 children. There are two. [*Interruption*] Well, I heard him say it and it was published on the newspapers. I wish I had a clipping of it. I hope you grasped the point which is that there are absent fathers. It is useless having so many children and you cannot take care of one or two. It is very sad. We have the laws to implement so that these people would be dealt with, but if they are dealt with they would become hardened and against society.

There are a number of recommendations from the World Bank in terms of child labour issues, causes and interventions. This paper by the World Bank gave some comparisons of labour force and participation rates of children and adults by region. In many regions as Africa, Asia and Europe there are many children between the ages of 10 to 14 years who are in the labour force. Africa has 22 per cent; the Americas, that is Latin America and Central America has 8 per cent; Asia, that is Thailand, Bangkok, India, Pakistan, China, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, 15.3 per cent and Europe is 0.3 per cent. That is a developed society. If we are aiming for Vision 2020 we should have a yardstick; not 2 per cent of our children; it could be 0 per cent of children in the labour force before the age of 16 years.

There is the issue of compulsory education and minimum age work regulations in selective countries. We are better than many of them. Here are some countries and the ages for compulsory education:

Country	Age (years)
Bangladesh	10
China	16
Costa Rica	15
France	16
India	14
Iran	10
Iraq	12
Italy	13
Nepal	11
Peru	12
Sri Lanka	15

I am glad that we are moving from 14 to 16 years. For many of the countries the basic minimum age for work is 14 years. France is 16 years; India, 14 years and Sri Lanka, 14 years. At least we are beginning to look at critically evaluating what is happening with our children by this first piece of legislation. There is more to be done. The legislation alone, in itself, cannot do the job. We have to monitor, evaluate, make recommendations and implement them.

A discussion paper by the World Bank indicated that their analysis led to certain implications for communities and countries. To deal with this problem of child labour they recommended the following:

- (1) To improve the quality of schooling by investing in education so as to increase its value to children and parents;
- (2) Provide subsidies to poor families prone to having working children so that they can afford their children's schooling; income subsidies and nutritional supplements.

We have breakfast for children.

- (3) Establish partnerships of international organizations dedicated to improving children's lives.

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We should be working with many non-governmental organizations and communities towards getting them to help eradicate this problem of child labour.

There is the paper on recommendations from a committee on the rights of the child. They made many recommendations on the question of child labour. It would be important for the hon. Minister to look at this on the website. There are some significant recommendations and deep analyses in terms of economic exploitations for the children; street children; taking appropriate legislative measures in developing an effective and comprehensive policy; addressing the sexual exploitation of children, including the factors that place children at risk of such exploitation and ensuring that detained children are always separated from adults. This is why we have schools like St. Michael's School and what happens to them after they reach the age of 16 or 18 years that they have to move from these schools into the jail. There are a number of recommendations which we can give the hon. Minister and the Ministry on the best interest of the child and street children.

There are a few issues in terms of the legislative aspect of the Bill that need to be given some clarification. The Minister indicated that under section 3 of the Factories Ordinance, the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) would be repealed in August 2007. I was a little uncomfortable. I do not know why he was speaking about 2007 with OSHA when there is a pressing need for OSHA to be implemented. I think that needs some clarification.

Sen. Montano: Madam President, if I could. I am sorry I am in a different place. I did not say that OSHA would be repealed. The Factories Ordinance is to be repealed automatically on August 17, 2007. We gave it a life span of 18 months beyond the date that the Occupational Safety and Health Act was proclaimed, so it would be repealed automatically.

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: Thanks for the clarification. Hon. Minister, you also mentioned that section 6 of the factories recruitment of workers would have to be looked at. Perhaps, we need some clarification on section 6 on the recruitment of workers. You touched it but did not elaborate. He said that although the Attorney General did not give him the information on it, he knew that there was need for repealing that section.

If we look at the Bill, clause 4(e) on neglectful parent which says:

“A parent or guardian who conduces to the employment of a child under the age of sixteen years through wilful default, or by habitually neglecting to exercise due care, is guilty of an offence.”

The word “guardian” is very troubling in terms of who is really the guardian of a child. When the father, mother and grandmother are not there or the grandfather is there, who is the guardian of the child? That is a very complex type of situation where we cannot identify the child’s guardian.

Clause 5:

“The Recruiting of Workers Act is amended by repealing section 5.”

Section 5 of the Act, recruiting of workers says that persons under the age of 18 years shall not be recruited except so and so be recruited with the consent of their parents or guardians for employment in Trinidad and Tobago upon light work subject to such conditions as he may prescribe. In much of the research work in terms of child labour there is a column for light work and heavy work. I find it very difficult and many times I am faced with this problem in my professional life when patients say, can you recommend me for light work because I am unable to deal with this situation. You have had it in your practice as well. We cannot determine what is light work. I think that area needs to be looked at. I know that it cannot be spelt out in any detail but at least we can get some clarification of what is light work.

It seems to be still unclear whether there is an international agreement defining child labour. Even with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and all the conventions we do not seem to have an international agreement defining child labour. There are varying minimum age work restrictions, but there are also varying regulations based on the type of labour. That is why I brought the question of light labour and heavy labour. This makes the limit of child labour very ambiguous. The problem then, is not child labour but the conditions under which the child operates.

In closing, there are a number of factors that determine and drive children into labour and families into child labour. Some are poverty; physical abuse; sexual abuse; delinquent fathers; single parent households; poor parenting practices; lack of social support systems for vulnerable groups and low levels of education. There are certain factors that would cause them to want to work because of the need for generating income and a desire to be their own boss. In so doing, that indicates a loss of hope in the capacity of the system to rehabilitate child labour. By increasing this age from 14 to 16 years we are in a situation where we are trying to ensure that we conform to an age limit and ILO conventions, but the systems are not in place to support such legislation. It is woefully short. As a

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result we are not gratified and feel very apprehensive about the fact that even though we support this legislation, we would not see the benefit to the young ones in the society, particularly the children in Trinidad and Tobago.

Thank you.

Madam President: Hon. Senators, I do not think it is worth getting Sen. Seetahal S.C. to start her contribution at this point. I think we would suspend for tea, return at 5.00 p.m. and then Sen. Seetahal S.C. will speak.

4.28 p.m.: *Sitting suspended.*

5.00 p.m.: *Sitting resumed.*

Madam President: I recognize Sen. Seetahal, S.C.

Sen. Dana Seetahal, S.C.: Thank you, Madam President. In principle, there can be little objection to the Bill before us, at least, in terms of its basic premise; what the Legislature is endeavouring to do.

This Bill is really about setting an across-the-board age of employment at 16 years. But of course as other Senators have mentioned before, this policy which will become law, must work with social policies, since throughout this country there are many persons who work under that age for the support of their families. You hear it every day, Madam President, a person leaves school because his father has died or he has left the family. Or, there is no male or even if there is, he is not functioning as such and the family needs to have income. That would have to be the two things working hand in glove.

The age of employment being set at 16 years is a necessary evolution, as it were, in our march towards being a developed country. Since the 18th Century that age has been raised in law from 7 to 9 to 10 to 12 and to 14.

Madam President, it is my view, however, that there ought to be some consistency in our various pieces of legislation which deal with the age of, whatever it is, by setting the age of a child for the purposes of that particular legislation or Act.

What I mean by this, for example, in criminal law the age of criminal liability is 7.

Sen. Jeremie: Can I? I do not mean to interrupt but I see where the Senator is heading and it reflects a concern which we had at the Legislative Review Committee. We discussed the varying categories in relation to infancy in the criminal law: age 7, the mischievous discretion and so on. But we took the point that for the purposes of this particular piece of legislation where we are speaking

to a very specific issue that is to say the age of employment for the purposes of child labour and, really, we are seeking to bring ourselves in line with international best practice that some effort ought to be made to live up to the country's obligations.

We cannot change the common law position as it relates to age of responsibility with respect to children. We do not intend to do that; that is on the criminal side. This is on the civil side. This relates to employment in respect of our international obligations. That is the point I wish to make.

Sen. D. Seetahal, S.C.: I thank the Attorney General and I hope that does not mean that he is suggesting that I do not proceed with my contribution in terms of the way I intended to do, and I still intend to.

My point, Madam President, and Senators, is that we have various ages and I think that at some point in time there should be a harmonization of those ages. I recognize at the same time, however, that only in certain aspects can there be a harmonization. In order to make my point I think that I need to highlight the differences in the ages for different things.

Madam President, while the Attorney General has said that it is not the intention, probably in the near future, to increase the age from 7, I think that in a civilized society, as we claim we are, that age should definitely be increased to say 10. We do not have a statutory set age for criminal liability. We go with the common law. Once you are 7 and over, you can be charged with any criminal offence. To prove it is a little difficult because as you have heard mentioned, you must also prove that child, for instance, has mischievous discretion; meaning that he knows that the offence is seriously wrong. But the point is that he could be liable for murder.

Insofar as the convention in respect of the rights of the child, just for the information of Senators, in 2000 there was the Children (Amdt.) Act, which sought to implement some of the matters we had agreed to and in that Act the age was raised to 18. There is this recognition throughout our recent legislation that age 18 should be the benchmark. That Act, however, has not been proclaimed, although passed.

So there is that recognition and this Government has shown the recognition. I think I should point out that recently, about two years ago, in passing the Liquor Licences (Amdt.) Act the Government decided that age 18 should be the age to purchase liquor. However, that has not been enforced and that raises what Sen. Mark mentioned, in terms of enforcement. If you go down to any of those

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nightclubs in the West—my information comes from my nieces and nephews who have told me that in those areas you can be served liquor at age 14. By the time you are age 18, Madam President, you know it is passé to go to those nightclubs and you are not going there again, you are moving on to university, for instance—serious business of life. [Interruption] Well, it is not my confession but that is what I understand. The point that I am making is that there is need for enforcement there.

In terms of the Sexual Offences Act we have a slight difference. The age of 14 is the age of consent, Madam President, never mind that things have been going on and you have seen the newspaper where this crushed young man at the age of 20 where his girlfriend who was just 15 years of age and they have a one-year-old child. The newspaper was so concerned about his well-being; poor guy. Poor guy? He should have been locked up because if they have a child and the young lady is 15 years old it means that he had sexual intercourse with her when she was under age 14.

The current 1986 Sexual Offences Act was passed in a previous PNM administration and it raised the age of consent to 16 where the offender is more than three years older than the other. That is actually a good thing but I think there should be enforcement of that law.

There is some degree of—but it happens often through the schools where teachers would report it—legislation which demands that teachers report sexual offences; social workers report sexual offences but they do not do it. Some years ago members of the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers Association (TTUTA) had a conversation where they asked me what their obligations were because the average teacher did not know that that was a requirement. Sometimes they would only do it when the child turned up pregnant in the class.

Madam President, age of marriage is a question you probably do not want to deal with because it varies depending on the religion. There is the Hindu Marriage Act; the Muslim Marriage Act; there is no Christian marriage act really, there is just the law. Should there not be some consistency there within the particular activity? You can get married if you are 14 years old—it used to be 12; it is still 12 years in some laws. Imagine that when you have reached the grand old age of 12 you can get married, so there we have it, the age of majority. There are so many inconsistencies in some of these. With respect to the age of majority, you have to be 18 years old to vote, Madam President, but you can drive when you are 17 years old. In other words, you do not have to be 18 years old to drive that is why we have a lot of young drivers on the roads driving—people say—at reckless

speeds. My experience, however, is that it is not necessarily young drivers; it is a lot of male drivers driving at a reckless speed. That is just an aside, Madam President. There is an argument to reduce the age for driving to 16.

Hon. Senators: What?

Sen. D. Seetahal, S.C.: There is an argument for that. Like the United States of America, that would be something to consider—[*Interruption*] Well, I think I have more roots and am in touch with what is going on in the society than some people. I am saying that there is that argument. I am not saying that you successfully persuade the Government—representatives of the Government are all shaking their heads. But the current practice—and I believe that the regulations of the public service are that one has to be 17 years old to work in the public service. I guess I can be told what is the particular regulation, but when I attempted to join the public service years ago and I had my O levels and I was just marching into A levels, I was told no, I had to be 17, so I imagine it is still so.

The point is though if we are talking about working and labour and now we are setting an across-the-board age, how does that work with the public service age? Is it going to be that you can now employ persons who are 16 years old in the public service? I think that is a matter on which we should hear something from the Minister or a member of the Government. That is something that I am interested to know because people have the O levels at the age of 16 and some of them are even bright enough to have their A levels; so we could decide that.

Madam President, corporal punishment—I think that a previous government passed legislation—was abolished for persons under the age of 18. Some persons may say that is a bad thing but nevertheless that was consistent with the convention in respect of the rights of the child. So if somebody is convicted of rape, robbery; those offences of violence where you could have had up to 20 strokes of the birch—it is no longer the cat—that cannot happen anymore since 2000. That again is another attempt to be civilized in terms of the way the world is going. We need to bring all these things in line. How do we do it? There is no big deal in how we do it; eventually we could just pass one piece of legislation called the Children Act, which would replace the current Children Act and we could cover all of these, but we have to decide on policy and whether or not we want to have an age for everything. Or, let us say for working you have 16 or 18 years, depending on what your policy is, for voting you have 18; for sex—sorry to have said it like that—having sexual intercourse you have that age or you want to leave it for marriage; this age for driving, and this is where—people have talked about it before—compulsory education.

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The two things, as other speakers have said before, go together; compulsory education and work. I think that one of the ways that you can enforce not working under the age of 16, unless it is a family business—by the way, it was mentioned by the Minister but I do not know if it was really recognized.

What we need to do, of course, is to pass legislation to ensure that persons stay in school until the age of 16 so they will not have the opportunity to loaf around. Right now you have free secondary education until age 16 but there are a lot of dropouts. You will find them by the malls or traffic lights waiting to get a dollar to clean your window or working somewhere else, or working illegally pushing drugs in schools and other places.

Recently, it emerged in court where somebody said from the age of 13 to the age of 18 he was selling drugs and now that he is reformed—he has reached 21 years—he has given up that kind of life. That is just to tell you that you have a lot of opportunity when you have nothing to do. If you are forced to go to school you will go even if you might do little. The fact is that sometimes something could rub off.

This morning I attempted to exercise along St. Johns Road; there is a primary school there and I saw two boys around 13 years or 14 years dressed in a certain way, which inclined me to believe that they could have been selling drugs. There were some children already there at 7 o'clock who had been dropped off by their parents. The boys were calling the others and one said: "No, I cannot leave the compound." This is a 10-year-old. So even though he was inclined to listen to the other boys he knew, because the school told them that they cannot leave the compound because of traffic until that time. So because of these rules, at some level, people can be saved from themselves. I am saying that compulsory education could save some children from loafing around, hanging out on street corners, and the police would then have some basis for arresting those students when they see them, at that age, somewhere else. Right now the police might warn them but they do not feel they have a sound basis in law, and I dare say they do not.

My final points, Madam President, one is that same point Sen. Mark raised with respect to the inspectors and whether there should be any power given to a Minister to designate a public officer an inspector. Inspector, as I understand it, Madam President, is a post in the public service; like you have Range X: A, B, C, D, E and people are appointed to those posts. Is it not there implicitly, whether or not we vote it as the Legislature? Something is inconsistent with allowing the Minister to have that power.

Sen. Montano: I do not think you were here when I explained that earlier. This does not allow the Minister to appoint anybody; it is to designate. As long as he is designated an inspector within the meaning of the Act he is vested with those powers. The appointment does not give him that, it is the designation. We do the same thing in the Minimum Wages Act and the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA). I made the point earlier because it had been raised a few times and I thought it would be worth explaining. That is the situation; we are not in conflict with—

Sen. D. Seetahal, S.C.: Yes, and I appreciate that and actually that is my point. You may not be in conflict in terms of the law but in principle; let us say you designate a principal of a school that means the person will carry out those functions, whereas the actual person to carry out those functions ought to be someone who has the qualifications and has been so appointed. I think in principle there has been an inconsistency there and that is what I think the Senator was concerned with too. Suppose it is not one particular minister, there are other ministers. You might designate 50 persons as inspectors, you never know. It is possible. The Act says “suitably qualified” but that is very vague. Are those persons really qualified to enforce? It is something we really need to consider because if we go this way in this piece of legislation we may do it in other places which are more crucial.

My final point has to do with penalties. The new substituted section 90(1) which sets the age of 16, merely states that any person who breaches this is guilty of an offence. Section 96 in the parent legislation has a general provision that any person committing an offence under this part, which includes section 90(1), is liable to a fine of one hundred dollars.

Madam President, it may well be that the Government is intending at some stage to do some mass revision of the legislation, I imagine this. But we know how long these things take. It is like when you say you will be temporarily in the building and next five years you are still temporarily there because you have so many other things going on. I think at this stage we ought to make this consistent.

Madam President, there is a section 92 here; if an employer fails to register workers 18 years of age and under he is liable to a fine of \$1,000. Just for that, Madam President, but you are talking about another person who employs persons under the age of 16, which is a serious breach and the most he could be liable to is \$100 or \$400 for a separate—

Sen. Montano: Senator, thank you for giving way. The bundle of legislation that the Attorney General referred to as the children’s package is very close. In fact, it was at the same stage that this Bill was at about two weeks ago, so it is

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almost upon us. We did not think at the time that we would interfere with those punishments and fines and so on, because we wanted them to harmonize right through the Act.

In view of the fact that we are going to conclude this next week we talked about it and we thought that we would go back and see if we should not, in fact, take the opportunity to do it while we are doing it now. So we would take it under advisement. It is not that it was ignored, it is the method to how it actually came about. But your point is taken and I think we may look at it for next week, but we will decide that in the course of the next few days.

Sen. D. Seetahal, S.C.: Thank you very much, Mr. Minister, through you Madam President, but not to be ungracious, I appreciate it. I do not want to be ungracious when I say, Madam President, that if this legislation is almost how this was two weeks ago, then there ought not to have been any problem of waiting for that bundle of legislation. It would have taken two weeks. What is two weeks? We have lived with 14 years of age and 16 years of age for the last 25/30 years.

I understand the eagerness of the Minister to bring this, but the thing is, Madam President, we have pieces of legislation here—and the reason I said not to be ungracious—I am going to be ungracious and say that I was promised two and a half years ago that the DNA Act would be passed by April 2004. [*Desk thumping*] This was a question I raised in the Parliament. I asked again and it was said to be in December 2004. If you recall on budget day it was said it would be passed by the end of this year. I know it is not the end of the year but I hardly think if it is not laid yet, we will get it. So you see I am sure I cannot ascribe any blame to one Minister for the failings of another, but if we are talking about a legislative committee of Cabinet then I have to be realistic. I therefore suggest to the Minister that we do make the amendment with the penalties now.

Thank you very much, Madam President. [*Desk thumping*]

Sen. Anthony Sammy: Madam President, I rise to make my contribution to this Bill, “An Act to amend the law relating to the minimum age for admission to employment in Trinidad and Tobago” to move it from 14 to 16 years.

Basically, Madam President, I just want to touch on a couple points. I agree with several of my colleagues that the offence should be as stiff as possible and certainly not be \$1,000. Why only a fine? Why not some other forms of punishment to go along with that, probably, going to jail or something? Should the offence be linked to the annual sales of that particular company, so that we make it as harsh as possible to discourage them from doing things that are not right?

The annual sales of a company can be easily obtained from the Board of Inland Revenue. If you were to take a percentage of that sale and apply it to each breach, I think that might discourage them.

Madam President, I come to another point that is linked to this. What about repeat offenders? What happens when the same company does it over and over again? Are you going to continue to charge them \$1,000, or \$100,000 per breach? I think that the punishment should be even harsher and stiffer. Maybe it should be a period of closure for that business because that is what would really hurt that business in the pocket.

If the fine is very small; if it is \$1,000 or \$2,000, and if the profitability of that company is, let us say \$1 million a year, that \$1,000 is a joke; they will break the law with impunity.

Madam President, I now go to section 94, which says:

“A parent or guardian who conduces to the employment of a child under the age of sixteen years through willful default, or by habitually neglecting to exercise due care, is guilty of an offence.”

Here again I am saying that parents and guardians must be severely fined when they too break the law. And like businesses, the fines and punishments must be severe in order to dissuade them from driving their children into child labour.

There must also be a linkage between compulsory school age and the admission to employment. There is an absence of harmony in increasing the age for admission of employment from 14 to 16 years and not to substantially increase the compulsory school age from its current 12 to 16 years. I therefore call on the Minister of Education to urgently effect the change from 12 to 16 years.

Madam President, it is my belief that every measure must be used to ensure our children, the future of our country, is protected at all costs. It is our solemn duty to ensure this is done:

1. The only way I believe this can be achieved is by having proper monitoring systems by way of inspectors that visit on a regular basis.
2. The fines and punishments for breaking the law must be as severe as possible.
3. Most important, Madam President, the laws must be implemented, adhered to and, of course, enforced.

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If we do not do that then I do not see how anything can be achieved.

Madam President, I ask that the Minister consider some of the points that I have made in ensuring that every company that breaks the law is severely fined.

Thank you, Madam President.

Sen. Basharat Ali: Madam President, I said I was going to be very brief but I am going to be even briefer in my contribution because of what has transpired so far.

First of all, Madam President, I would like to place on record my appreciation to the hon. Minister of Legal Affairs, who is not here today, for causing to be posted on the Ministry's web-site "The Revised Laws of Trinidad and Tobago". It is a great help to people like myself who do not have law offices. I wish to give my personal appreciation and I am sure those who have been on the website would like to join with me.

With respect to the Bill, my first item listed was for the Factories Ordinance. I do not see why we have to go, at this stage of the game, to amend the Factories Ordinance which will be repealed by August 17, 2007. My views on the Factories Ordinance are well known. My position has been that we have fatalities in industries and there is always no breach of the Factories Ordinance. I understand that this has been included here out of an abundance of caution; we may never need to apply it, but I hope that by August 17, 2007 there would be no other reason why we should not repeal that section 98 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) and have it fully operational.

5.30 p.m.

My next comment relates to clause 4, the amendment to the Children Act and, under section 91(2), which gives a little leeway for young people who do vocational and technical courses and children at least 14 years who can be attached to undertakings. I wonder whether "Minister" there should not be "Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education". We are speaking here primarily about vocational training, technical training and attachments to other undertakings, which will be like a sandwich course. I feel that the Minister responsible for all these vocational institutions should be consulted on this rather than the Minister of Education. That is a comment I have not yet heard today and I bring it to the attention of the Senate.

There is one under 92B(4) and I will look at that when we go into committee—upper case "Judge" and lower case "judge". I am a little confused, so I will seek clarification when we go into committee.

The amendment to section 96 has been debated here and I am strongly of the view that we must change that today—amend the fine of \$100 for the first conviction and \$400 for the second and every other. This needs to be addressed today and not later. I do not see why we cannot do it today. Those are my short comments on the Bill.

Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Public Administration and Information and Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Sen. The Hon. Dr. Lenny Saith): Madam President, I beg to move that the Senate be now adjourned to Tuesday, December 12, 2006, at 1.30 p.m., at which time we will continue the debate on this Bill.

Private Security Firms (Absence of Clear Guidelines of Operation)

Sen. Wade Mark: Madam President, my Motion, as you will recall, is the failure on the part of the Minister of National Security to establish clear guidelines for the operation of private security firms in this country, resulting in the exploitation of thousands of workers employed in the industry.

There is something called the Supplemental Police Act and, under section 12(1) of that Act, the Minister has the responsibility to make regulations to ensure the duties to be performed by members of the estate police and their guidance and performance of duties; the whole issue of clothing and equipment, training and discipline and good order. Subsection (2) says:

“There may be imposed for the breach of any such regulation such penalty, not exceeding one hundred dollars as may seem reasonable.”

It is my information that the Minister of National Security has to date not promulgated regulations for the private security industry and, as such, both the Commissioner of Police and the Minister of National Security have failed in this regard.

Madam President, it is my understanding that there are over 300 private security companies operating in Trinidad and Tobago and over 85 per cent are not registered with the Ministry of National Security. There are some 66 companies, we understand, as at a year or two ago—the Minister can bring us up to date—that are registered with the Ministry of National Security. When a company is registered with the Ministry of National Security, there is a particular form you fill out, including getting coverage at a value of \$250,000.

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Would you believe, Madam President, that in Trinidad and Tobago, the private security industry employs close to 50,000 citizens, with about 11,000 being precepted? Companies prefer to keep workers unprecepted in this country to facilitate their exploitation. The Minister has the responsibility of amending this supplemental Act or of bringing into being the Private Security Agency Act, so that we can address this matter.

What is even more alarming is that 50 to 55 per cent of persons employed in that industry are women. They are single; they head the household and they have children. These workers are forced to work 12 hours straight with no overtime. Many work for 16 hours straight. Some work for 36 hours. I am told one particular worker went for 108 hours without stopping. That is the kind of exploitation. It is like a slave zone that we have established without any regulations in that industry.

There is no training taking place in that industry. Any criminal can be taken off the street and put into a uniform and he is there protecting your property. A criminal who just came from jail is given a uniform because there are no regulations. Who is to protect you? A thief is coming to protect you, but he has a uniform. There are no regulations.

Madam President, would you believe that, in 2007—the PNM Government is talking about getting to full employment, but there are people today working without vacation leave and without sick leave. They have no pension plan and no medical plan. Many women who become pregnant are fired. They are violating the maternity protection law and they are afraid to go because they want to work. They have no casual leave, no sick leave, no overtime payment and if you get injured on the job, “crapaud smoke your pipe” .

They have to pay for their own uniforms, sometimes \$1,000. They have to buy their own boots. If they arrive late on the job, they are charged \$100. If they are sick or they have to see about their children and they do not report for duty, they are fined \$100. They go into their personal property, their wages, and they extract that \$100 without permission. What they are doing is illegal. The Government is supporting the industry because they have brought no measures to protect the workers in the private security industry.

Madam President, you would not believe that in that industry the majority of workers have just gone to primary schools. Some have gone through the secondary school system with no passes. When you see a security guard, a woman in particular, with three bags walking to work, one is to change, the next is to deal

with whatever and the other has their little eats. So they go to work with three bags because once you are on duty and nobody comes to relieve you, you stay at your post.

Here in Trinidad and Tobago, in 2007, there are these low wages. This private security industry is linked to crime because of the low wages that the workers receive. They rent their guns for \$500 to put down a “wuk”. That is what is going on in the private security industry today. These workers earn \$7 an hour; some \$8. Amalgamated Industry just increased by \$2 from \$9 to \$11, but that is a registered company with the Ministry of National Security.

Madam President and Minister, would you believe that there are private security firms operating out of cars? Their cars are their offices because there are no regulations or standards to guide these people. Anybody can set up a private security company tomorrow morning, get \$40 from the employer to protect them and pay me \$8; no sick leave. Where are we going with this? Can we be proud of this?

What is the role of the Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development? Inspectors are supposed to be inspecting those places. Because of the failure of the Minister of National Security to promulgate regulations, most of these workers are not precepted and when you are not precepted, you cannot become a member of the Estate Constables Association. So they have all these workers at the mercy of their employers.

Do you know what is sad? I was here in 1994 when the then Minister of Labour, Kenneth Collis, tabled a Minimum Wages Order for the first time and we were so happy that the Government had recognized the need to give private security guards vacation leave, sick leave, maternity leave, overtime payment and casual leave.

Do you know what the Government did? As they tabled the Minimum Wages Order that day, the next week they withdrew it and brought a new Order and all they had in that Order was overtime payment. They removed sick leave, vacation leave, maternity protection and casual leave because the PNM is in bed with all the serious big businessmen who are involved in the private security industry. They are collaborating and facilitating the exploitation and oppression of workers in that industry. That is what is going on.

We call on the Minister of National Security to promulgate regulations in accordance with clause 12(1) and (2). Madam President, dog is better than man in the private security industry. There are dogs in the industry protecting people's

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property. The way they feed those dogs is better than the way they feed man, so in Trinidad and Tobago dog is better than man in the private security industry. [Laughter] This is no laughing matter. This is life and death. People are suffering out there.

I call on the Minister of National Security to take measures. I call on the Minister of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development, through you, to ensure that his Labour Inspectors visit these slave camps they have called private security companies in this country. The Minister has a responsibility either to amend the Supplemental Police Act or to introduce new legislation. I recall, back in the 1990s, a Bill called the Private Security Agencies Bill. They had it out for public comment. They asked the stakeholders, but nothing has been done.

I call on the Minister of National Security to take action to bring into effect the regulations to govern that industry and I call on the Minister of Labour, through him, to take measures to safeguard the rights and privileges that all these workers deserve in this country. There is too much exploitation of workers in the private security industry and the time has come for the Government to intervene to provide these workers with decent work, decent pay and proper working conditions, so they can live as human beings. It is my view that no security worker should work for less than \$25 an hour. We should have a special sectoral minimum wage to deal with those workers in Trinidad and Tobago.

I thank you very much, Madam President.

The Minister of National Security (Sen. The Hon. Martin Joseph): Thank you very much, Madam President. This Motion addresses two principal areas of concern. The first deals with the establishment of clear guidelines for the operation of the private security firms in Trinidad and Tobago, while the second centres on the allegation of exploitation of thousands of workers employed in the industry. Permit me to focus on the issue of clear guidelines for the operation of the private security industry.

As Sen. Mark indicated, the Supplemental Police Act, Chap. 15:02 of the laws of Trinidad and Tobago sets out comprehensive standards of operations with regard to the appointment and promotion of constables, powers and duties of constables, resignations, remuneration, authority and disciplinary procedures relating to supplemental police bodies. The Act also states in section 5:

“Subject to the general direction and Order of the Minister, the Commissioner of Police shall have the command and superintendence of the supplemental police and he shall be responsible to the Minister for their effective condition and for the proper carrying out of the provisions of this Act.”

It goes further, in section 12, to state, inter alia, that:

- “(1) The Minister may make regulations relating to all or any of the following matters:
- (a) the duties to be performed by the members of the Rural and Estate Police, and their guidance in the performance of the duties;...
 - (d) generally, the good order and good government of the Rural and Estate Police.”

It is clear, therefore, from the Act, that the Minister of National Security is the Minister with responsibility for ensuring through the Commissioner of Police, that the operations of these private security firms are monitored to ensure adherence to provisions of the Act. Moreover, the Act authorizes the Minister to make the required regulations to guide such operations.

It is in full knowledge of this fact that the Ministry of National Security has embarked on a number of initiatives aimed at streamlining the operations of the private security industry. These are some of the initiatives:

- (A) Development of specific guidelines for persons applying for permission to operate a protective service agency.

Application for permission to operate a protective service agency has to be made through the Ministry of National Security on a prescribed form as Sen. Mark said. The form is then forwarded to the Commissioner of Police for enquiries to be conducted and submission of a report on the suitability of the company and its executives. Based on the Commissioner’s recommendation, the Ministry of National Security may approve or disapprove the application.

Madam President, the Ministry of National Security, in its effort to ensure that these private security firms continue to operate within the confines of professionalism as far as national security and safety are concerned, established specific documentary guidelines when applying for permission to operate as a protective service agency. It is important for me at this point to identify some of the prerequisites.

- (a) Certificate of character in respect of each director and senior executive officer of the agency;
- (b) certificate of registration for the Registrar of Companies;
- (c) certificate from an insurance company certifying that the agency has a valid public liability insurance policy issued by that company with

coverage for an amount not less than \$500,000 and must include liability for damages caused by the negligence of security officers at the premises of customers;

- (d) certificate from an insurance company endorsing that there is in force a policy of insurance issued by that company insuring or indemnifying the agency against the full amount of its liability in respect of any injury sustained by a security officer in the discharge of his or her duty;
- (e) certificate from the National Insurance Board that the agency is registered as an employer under the National Insurance Act and that there are no outstanding amounts payable under the Act by the agency up to the month in which the application is made.

Additional checks are also undertaken by the police service to gauge the extent to which the company's executive possesses the basic knowledge and skills required to operate a protective service agency, the financial status of the proposed company, the proposed number of employees and their skill level and the type of equipment to be used.

(B) Upgrading of the regulatory mechanism.

Madam President, very recently, the Commissioner of Police developed a strengthened regulatory mechanism within which the private security industry will be monitored. This mechanism involves an Assistant Commissioner of Police now being mandated to submit a written report to the Commissioner of Police on a quarterly basis on the affairs of the supplemental police. This report will contain:

- (1) the name and addresses of every supplemental police agency or security company in the district;
- (2) the actual strength in each division;
- (3) the names, addresses and contact information of each precepted officer;
- (4) the number of visits and inspections of supplemental police activities undertaken in respect of ammunitions and compliance with operational rules, regulations and procedures;
- (5) the number of refresher training programmes conducted by the respective organizations;
- (6) the record of checks to ensure that precepts are reconciled every two years with the records of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.

In order to facilitate this monitoring responsibility, that Assistant Commissioner of Police will be entrusted with the responsibility of receiving monthly or quarterly reports from divisional commanders pertaining to all supplemental police agencies situated or conducting business in their divisions. The divisional commanders will appoint senior officers to visit and report on personnel attached to the various supplemental police agencies in these respective divisions.

The Assistant Commissioner of Police shall also be required to convene quarterly meetings with the owners or chief executive officers of private security agencies, the heads of security of municipal corporations, as well as divisional commanders. At these meetings performance, training and other issues are to be discussed. The question of type and calibre of persons recruited as well as the recruiting procedures and standardized training for all supplemental police officers shall also be addressed. The minutes of these meetings shall be compiled into an annual report and forwarded to the Minister through the Commissioner of Police.

The Commissioner also proposes to ensure that a comprehensive background investigation is done on all prospective recruits. The security company shall be responsible for underwriting the cost of such investigations. These new mechanisms will ensure that a standard is maintained by the supplemental police agencies, which will assist the Trinidad and Tobago Police should it ever become necessary for the Commissioner of Police to call on them to act in a supporting role.

(C) Establishment of a database to store information pertaining to the private security industry.

Coming out of the above arrangements, a database, which has already been established will be maintained to keep the Commissioner of Police abreast of developments in the industry on a real time basis.

(D) Legislative amendments to ensure that all security officers are covered under the Supplemental Police Act.

Madam President, at present there are approximately 300 private security firms operating within the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Sen. Mark: I am right this time.

Sen. The Hon. M. Joseph: Obviously—let me not go there. These companies employ 45,000 persons, according to our data—5,000 off. Data from the Office of the Commissioner of Police suggests that only 11,000 of those

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persons are precepted. Since the Act provides that upon appointing any person to be a constable the Commissioner shall deliver or cause to be delivered to him a precept, that leaves almost—and he is right—66 per cent of those employed in the industry outside of the provisions of the Act.

Madam President, the Ministry of National Security recognizes the need to have that situation expeditiously addressed. Within this context, the Ministry of National Security is currently working with the Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development and the Chief Parliamentary Counsel on the issue of amending the Supplemental Police Act to include all security officers, as well as on the formulation of rules to enhance the Act. In fact, in September of this year, the legal officers of the Ministry of National Security and the Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development and I met with the Police Association to discuss the legislation.

A draft Bill entitled the Private Security Agencies Bill is now being reviewed in light of the many developments that occurred since its original draft. The Estate Police Association, the Ministry of National Security, the Chief Parliamentary Counsel and the Commissioner of Police are involved in this exercise. We anticipate that the Bill will be included on the parliamentary agenda for the second half of 2007.

On the issue of exploitation of workers employed in the industry, Sen. Mark indicated some of the issues with respect to overtime, maternity leave, sick leave, et cetera. Let me indicate that the reality is that the business of security in Trinidad and Tobago and, indeed, the world, is widely competitive. Security firms have to respond to the pressing demands for extra security for business as well as residential properties. Emanating from this reality is the fact that these firms are increasing their personnel base and, given the current market, are compelled to remunerate appropriately their workers to avoid excessive staff turnover.

If Sen. Mark is saying that there are some fly-by-night security agencies, we can only talk about those agencies over which we have some remit. What we will do is put things in place to look at those agencies that are not registered and what I explained earlier will allow us to do that.

On the issue of wages, section 9 of the Supplemental Police Act provides for the Commissioner of Police to, and I quote:

“...appoint any qualified person to be a constable;”

but states that:

“no estate constable shall be appointed unless provision is made to the satisfaction of the Commissioner by the employer for the remuneration of such constable.”

That has to be taken within the context of the minimum wage.

Let me address something that Sen. Mark indicated. As far as we are aware, the minimum wage of \$9 an hour is currently paid and, while there would be unscrupulous employers who are inclined in the interest of maximizing their profits to disobey the rules, I am told that there do exist firms which, because of competition in recruitment, are paying upwards of \$14 and \$15 per hour. The figure then climbs to about \$18 per hour for precepted constables. There is a distinction between precepted officers and what we call watchmen. Officers who are in possession of a Firearm Users' Licence or Certificate can receive a minimum of \$24 an hour. So there is a sliding scale in terms of payment even within the various security firms.

The concern of remunerative exploitation is one which the Commissioner of Police, through his enhanced regulatory mechanism, will monitor very closely. The impact of competitive market forces will also dictate remuneration to some extent.

Let me turn to some of the conditions of which Sen. Mark spoke. The ones brought to our attention based on discussions with the estate police constables are as follows:

1. Quite often illegal fines are imposed on officers by companies for perceived breaches of discipline. These fines are deducted from their wages without giving the officers the opportunity to be heard.
2. Officers are often placed to work in poor and hazardous conditions without any protective gear.
3. Some of these companies issue firearms to unprecepted officers who are not holders of a Firearm Users' Licence or certificate. Officers are recruited off the street and immediately dispatched to assume duty on the same day without any form of training; no background checks or antecedent investigations are conducted on such persons, resulting in persons with criminal background and intent being given access to valuable properties and information of others.
4. Other terms and conditions of employment such as sick leave, vacation leave, compensation for injuries sustained in the execution of duty are constantly being denied officers by a vast number of these security agencies.

Madam President, although all these breaches of proper industrial practices are confined to security employees who are not precepted, and therefore not covered under the Act, the legislative amendments to the Act will regularize such

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potential for exploitation by unscrupulous security firms. In the interim, however, the Commissioner of Police will be clamping down on such practices during its random visits to the private security firms.

There is an inference in this Motion that all security officers are at the mercy of their employers and do not enjoy the necessary protection under the law as far as terms and conditions of service are concerned. This is surely not so. I guide the attention of the hon. Senator who raised this Motion that section 42 of the Supplemental Police Act, states clearly, and I quote:

“(1) The Special Tribunal shall hear and determine all disputes referred to it under the provisions of the Industrial Relations Act as incorporated in section 40 of this Act, and for that purpose shall have the powers of the Industrial Court that are vested therein by the Industrial Relations Act.”

Madam President, any dispute which arises among estate constables or between estate constables and an employer may, if not otherwise determined, be reported to the employer or the Estate Police Association to the Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development and be the subject of attention by this special tribunal. [*Interruption*] That is it for precepted officers; so there are mechanisms in place to deal with precepted officers. It is the unprecepted officers that we will be addressing and, as I indicated, measures will be put in place to deal with these circumstances.

I thank you very much.

6.00 p.m.

Deferral of Motion

Madam President: I am not seeing the Minister of Health.

Sen. Dr. Tim Gopeesingh: Madam President, I am prepared to put on record the facts surrounding my Motion, because this is of utmost particular importance to the national community. Last week, I was supposed to have done it but he was not here and we indicated that we would do it this week and that we would have had the two Motions.

I believe the hon. Minister is in the country. I have asked a number of questions on the Order Paper and they have not been answered. I think the country is owed an explanation to this and I would like to put it on record.

Madam President: Just now, let me hear what the Minister has to say.

The Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs (Sen. The Hon. Joan Yuille-Williams): Madam President, I need to apologize on behalf of the hon. Minister. He is not here at the moment and we did try to reach him. I am quite sure that something must have happened. He is not an

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irresponsible Minister, I can assure you. I do hope that the Senator would understand what I said. All I can do is apologize and hope that next Tuesday he would be here. I am quite sure that something must have kept him from being here.

Madam President: You want to make your presentation today? I do not think we can do that, unfortunately.

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: This is of such critical importance to the national community.

Madam President: We understand all that. As the Minister said and would say myself, maybe he thought it would have been later or something. It just is not like the Minister of Health. Maybe he scheduled it to be a little later, or something. Unfortunately, as the Clerk has confirmed, we really need to put it and have the reply right away. All I can suggest is that we wait for next week. I am sorry about that, okay—unless I see the Minister walking through that door right now but unfortunately, he is not. [*Interruption*] I doubt that. Let us not say so.

Question put and agreed to.

House adjourned accordingly.

Adjourned at 6.03 p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION

Government's Chronic Disease Assistance Programme (List of all pharmacies)

9. *The following question was asked by Sen. Dr. Tim Gopeesingh earlier in the proceedings:*

- (a) Would the Minister of Health provide the list of all pharmacies which fill prescriptions issued under the Government's Chronic Disease Assistance Programme (C-DAP)?
- (b) Would the hon. Minister inform this Senate of the following:
 - (i) The total value of prescriptions filled by each pharmacy under the C-DAP from the commencement of operations to August 2006?

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The following reply was circulated for Members of the Senate:.

PHARMACY FULL NAME	Date of Entry into Programme	TOTAL VALUE
Kadmin's Pharmacy Ltd. 76 Eastern Main Road, <u>San Juan</u>	17-Feb-03	1,902,871.68
Midtown Pharmacy Ltd. 69 Eastern Main Road, <u>Tunapuna</u>	17-Feb-03	1,543,822.58
Chaguanas Pharmacy Main Road, <u>Chaguanas</u>	17-Feb-03	1,309,027.62
Bhagwat's Pharmacy 30 Main Road, <u>Chaguanas</u>	17-Feb-03	1,195,114.62
Valini's Drugmart 58 Sutton Street, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	1,150,912.53
R & R Budget Drugs Ltd. 1135 SS Erin Road, <u>Penal</u>	17-Feb-03	1,137,777.04
Eastern Pharmacy Cor. Eastern Main Road & Ojoe Road, <u>Sangre Grande</u>	17-Feb-03	1,091,901.31
Roopnarine's Drug Store Ltd. Hannah's Plaza, <u>Penal</u>	17-Feb-03	1,086,863.51
Mickey's Pharmacy 3 Endeavour Road, <u>Chaguanas</u>	17-Feb-03	1,084,650.97
Harrow's Drugs 41 High Street, <u>Princes Town</u>	17-Feb-03	1,043,417.20
The Family Medicine Centre Mid Centre Mall, <u>Chaguanas</u>	17-Feb-03	915,739.96
Wazir's Pharmacy Cor. Pointe-a-Pierre &, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	856,506.42
Central Drugs 38 Southern Main Road, <u>California</u>	17-Feb-03	804,484.15

PHARMACY FULL NAME	Date of Entry into Programme	TOTAL VALUE
Kappa Drugs Cor. Robert & Damian Street, <u>Woodbrook</u>	17-Feb-03	774,066.25
Cunupia Drug Stop Chin Chin Rd., <u>Cunupia</u>	17-Feb-03	740,556.43
Drugs World Ltd. 229 Southern Main Rd., <u>Marabella</u>	17-Feb-03	730,162.43
Rio Claro Pharmacy High Street, <u>Rio Claro</u>	17-Feb-03	679,060.38
Hometown Pharmacy 15 Queen Street, <u>Arima</u>	17-Feb-03	678,243.40
Sinanan Drugs World Ltd. Triangular Mall, <u>Penal</u>	17-Feb-03	665,074.54
Ali's Pharmacy Ltd. 76 Charlotte Street, <u>Port-of-Spain</u>	17-Feb-03	618,092.53
Apex Pharmacy Freeport Shopping Complex, <u>Freeport</u>	17-Feb-03	608,384.85
Horace's Drugs Ltd. 35 High Street, <u>Siparia</u>	17-Feb-03	606,216.22
Bhagan's Drugs (1996) Ltd. Ridgewood Plaza, <u>Arima</u>	17-Feb-03	598,151.15
KAF Enterprise Ltd./Harris Drugs High Street, <u>Princes Town</u>	17-Feb-03	582,826.70
West India Pharmacy 2A Saddle Road, <u>Santa Cruz</u>	17-Feb-03	573,744.11
Vita Drugs Cor. Mohammedville &, <u>San Juan</u>	17-Feb-03	543,279.51

PHARMACY FULL NAME	Date of Entry into Programme	TOTAL VALUE
Umraw's Pharmacy 6 Clarke Road Junction, <u>Penal</u>	17-Feb-03	522,945.08
Numbers Drugs Cor. Lord & Mucurapo Streets, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	504,816.32
Princes Town Drug Mart Ltd. 1 Cacique Street, <u>Princes Town</u>	17-Feb-03	482,985.20
Rajaram's Pharmacy Southern Main Road, <u>Couva</u>	17-Feb-03	450,767.43
A Sinanan's Drug Mart Eastern Main Road, <u>Sangre Grande</u>	17-Feb-03	446,931.07
Bhagan's Drugstore 48c Broadway Street, <u>Arima</u>	17-Feb-03	443,579.77
Delta Drugs 27 Queen Street, <u>Arima</u>	17-Feb-03	443,438.34
The Medicine Stop 59 Rodney Road, <u>Chaguanas</u>	17-Feb-03	440,134.60
Charlotte Drugs Ltd. 23 Charlotte Street, <u>Port of Spain</u>	17-Feb-03	437,731.19
The Medicine Corner Ltd. #3 Golden Grove Road, <u>Arouca</u>	17-Feb-03	419,346.67
Mayaro Pharmacy 4 Guayguayare Road, <u>Mayaro</u>	17-Feb-03	410,343.43
Medical Dispensary Chaguanas Main Road, <u>Chaguanas</u>	17-Feb-03	391,913.08
Ferrisa Pharmacy Debe Junction, <u>Debe</u>	17-Feb-03	386,184.04
Longdenville Pharmacy 239 Main Road, <u>Chaguanas</u>	17-Feb-03	364,085.74

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PHARMACY FULL NAME	Date of Entry into Programme	TOTAL VALUE
St. Helena Drug Mart. Cor. Ragbir Gunness & , <u>St. Helena</u>	17-Feb-03	356,368.13
Pharmax Pharmacy Baksh Building, <u>Sangre Grande</u>	17-Feb-03	349,392.49
Verison Drugs Limited Lot # 108 Eastern Main Road, <u>Sangre Grande</u>	17-Feb-03	345,710.21
Lisa's Pharmacy Ltd. 109 Guapo Main Road, <u>Fyzabad</u>	17-Feb-03	333,232.16
Williamsville Drugmart 111 Guaracara Tabaquite Road, <u>Williamsville</u>	17-Feb-03	327,088.60
Samodee's Drug Store K K's Plaza, <u>Couva</u>	17-Feb-03	321,356.25
Crown Pharmacy 17 Saddle Road, <u>San Juan</u>	17-Feb-03	321,342.97
Mega Drugs 213 Eastern Main Road, <u>Tacarigua</u>	17-Feb-03	306,394.74
Dinsley Drugs 18 Eastern Main Road, <u>Tacarigua</u>	17-Feb-03	305,782.34
St. Joseph Pharmacy 43 Eastern Main Road, <u>St. Joseph</u>	17-Feb-03	305,480.44
Handel's Pharmacy St. Margaret's Mall, <u>Claxton Bay</u>	17-Feb-03	302,670.53
Alpha Drugs Ltd. 161 Diego Martin Main Rd., <u>Diego Martin</u>	17-Feb-03	301,037.62

PHARMACY FULL NAME	Date of Entry into Programme	TOTAL VALUE
Princes Town Pharmacy Ltd. High Street, <u>Princes Town</u>	17-Feb-03	300,178.92
Express Drugs Ltd. 102 Western Main Road, <u>St. James</u>	17-Feb-03	299,261.18
K B's Pharmacy 21 Pasea Main Road, <u>Tunapuna</u>	17-Feb-03	286,768.16
Maxsal Drugs Limited 14 Southern Main Road, <u>Curepe</u>	17-Feb-03	282,835.08
St. Mary's Community Drug Store 16 Mission Road, <u>Freeport</u>	17-Feb-03	278,382.97
Plaza Drugs Naparima Mayaro Road, <u>Rio Claro</u>	17-Feb-03	276,713.79
K. Pharm Ltd. Cor. Foster Rd. & <u>Sangre Grande</u>	17-Feb-03	274,525.78
Success Drugstore 41 High Street, <u>Siparia</u>	17-Feb-03	274,374.12
Sixth Avenue Drugs 115 Eastern Main Road, <u>Barataria</u>	17-Feb-03	273,758.65
Young's Pharma-Serv Ltd. 26 Saddle Road, <u>Maraval</u>	17-Feb-03	268,031.41
One Stop Pharmacy 49 Harmony Hall Road, <u>Gasparillo</u>	17-Feb-03	261,124.36
The New Drug Store Cor. Charlotte & Duke Streets, <u>Port of Spain</u>	17-Feb-03	257,999.87
Sav Mor Drug Mart 16 Southern Main Road, <u>Marabella</u>	17-Feb-03	255,334.87
Diamond Vale Drugs Ltd. Diamond Vale Shopping Plaza, <u>Diego Martin</u>	17-Feb-03	254,959.66

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PHARMACY FULL NAME	Date of Entry into Programme	TOTAL VALUE
Cindy's Drugs 352 Southern Main Rd., <u>Cunupia</u>	17-Feb-03	254,363.83
Muhammad's Pharmacy #257 Southern Main Road, <u>Cunupia</u>	30-Sep-03	248,126.07
Ravi's Pharmacy 57 Gooding Village, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	246,185.19
Phar-Mor Drugs 128 Eastern Main Road, <u>Tunapuna</u>	17-Feb-03	244,215.14
R & R's Drugs St. Helena Junction, <u>Piarco</u>	17-Feb-03	244,093.70
Express Drugs Ltd. 62 Aranguéz Mn Rd, <u>Aranguéz</u>	17-Feb-03	243,848.42
Cumberdale Pharmacy Corner Watts Street and College Trace, <u>St. Augustine</u>	17-Feb-03	239,044.09
Lee's Pharmacy 61 Eastern Main Road, <u>Curepe</u>	17-Feb-03	238,837.59
Bhagan's Drugs Ltd. Store 18-19, <u>Chaguanas</u>	22-Sep-03	233,283.09
Kappa Drugs 73A Saddle Road, <u>Maraval</u>	17-Feb-03	231,254.28
Montrose Pharmacy Montrose Junction, <u>Chaguanas</u>	17-Feb-03	229,558.47
The Royal Pharmacy Ltd. 39 Prince Street, <u>Port of Spain</u>	17-Feb-03	227,743.74
C & M Pharmacy 8 Guapo Cap-de-Ville Road, <u>Point Fortin</u>	17-Feb-03	224,806.33

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Healthnet Limited Unit B1 Couva Complex, <u>Couva</u>	17-Feb-03	222,917.53
N.S.P. Drug Mart 26 Naparima Mayaro Road, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	220,763.61
Lisa's Drugmart Ltd. 50 High Street, <u>Siparia</u>	17-Feb-03	212,010.41
Maxsal Drugs Ltd. Shop #3, North-Eastern Complex, <u>Arima</u>	17-Feb-03	211,107.56
Farro's Pharmacy Ltd. Long Circular Mall, <u>St. James</u>	17-Feb-03	207,278.56
Rite Aid Pharmacy Ltd. Cor. Eastern Main Road & Freeling Street, <u>Tunapuna</u>	17-Feb-03	203,957.10
Busy Corner Drugs 24 Main Road, <u>Chaguanas</u>	17-Feb-03	198,547.70
Ganessingh's Drugs 271 Southern Main Road, <u>Cunupia</u>	17-Feb-03	193,369.69
Medicare Drugs (1990) Ltd. Cor. Eastern Main Road &, <u>Tunapuna</u>	17-Feb-03	193,333.54
Pyramid Drug Store Ltd. 6 Prince Street, <u>Port of Spain</u>	17-Feb-03	191,018.03
Sinanan's Drugstore Ltd. 46 Mucurapo Street, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	189,491.44
A & N Drugmart LP #56 Gasparillo Main Road, <u>Gasparillo</u>	17-Feb-03	189,138.50
C.V.A. Pharmacy 92 Oxford Street, <u>Port of Spain</u>	17-Feb-03	186,989.22

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PHARMACY FULL NAME	Date of Entry into Programme	TOTAL VALUE
Parkway Pharmacy #91 SS Erin Road, <u>San Fernando</u>	14-Apr-05	180,251.76
V & C Drugmart 59 Montrose Main Road, <u>Chaguanas</u>	17-Feb-03	179,876.56
Shiva's Pharmacy Ltd. 38-42 Royal Road, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	179,454.77
Edinburgh Pharmacy #162 Old Southern Road, <u>Chaguanas</u>	08-Oct-03	178,619.89
Bhagan's Drugs Ltd. 10 Broadway Street, <u>Port of Spain</u>	17-Feb-03	176,850.12
Benmah Drugmart 114 High Street, <u>Princes Town</u>	17-Feb-03	176,704.97
Ali's Pharmacy Ltd. Valpark Shopping Plaza, <u>Valsayn</u>	17-Feb-03	175,537.86
Specialist Pharmacy 86 Main Road, <u>Chaguanas</u>	17-Feb-03	175,339.77
Tacarigua Pharmacy 157 Eastern Main Road, <u>Tacarigua</u>	17-Feb-03	173,460.74
Ross Budget Drugs Ltd. 39 Independence Sq., <u>Port of Spain</u>	17-Feb-03	172,678.43
Roopnarine's Pharmacy 4 Eastern Main Road, <u>D'Abadie</u>	17-Feb-03	169,860.66
JGS Drugs Old Piarco Road, <u>D'Abadie</u>	17-Feb-03	169,172.71
Tiaren Drugs 7B Coffee Street, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	169,105.19
Sinanan's Drug Stop 51 Independence Ave, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	168,027.69
Randall's Pharmacy Ltd. 103A Western Main Road, <u>St. James</u>	17-Feb-03	167,909.35

PHARMACY FULL NAME	Date of Entry into Programme	TOTAL VALUE
10th Avenue Drugs Ltd.		
Cor. Eastern Main Road & , <u>Barataria</u>	17-Feb-03	166,525.36
R & J Drugs		
Montano Plaza, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	166,212.48
South Zone Pharmacy		
#62 Main Road, <u>Point Fortin</u>	17-Feb-03	163,685.82
Chaguanas Drug Mart Limited		
Unit #3 A, Flemming Plaza, <u>Chaguanas</u>	20-Jul-05	157,771.50
10th Avenue Pharmacy		
#234 Eastern Main Road, <u>Tunapuna</u>	27-Sep-04	156,525.53
St. James Pharmacy		
11 Western Main Road, <u>St. James</u>	17-Feb-03	155,026.55
A & L Pharmacy		
#1 Ben Gurion Avenue, <u>Petit Valley</u>	17-Feb-03	154,966.14
W.M. Allum's Pharmacy		
Cor. Team Drive & Majuba Cross Road, <u>Petit Valley</u>	17-Feb-03	148,487.14
Charis Drugs Ltd.		
LP #469 Southern Main Road, <u>Carapichaima</u>	17-Feb-03	148,231.48
Balmain Drugmart		
98 Balmain Village, <u>Couva</u>	17-Feb-03	141,595.91
Pharmacy World		
Teddy Shopping Centre, <u>La Romain</u>	26-Jan-04	141,194.64
Medac Drugs		
102A Frederick Street, <u>Port of Spain</u>	17-Feb-03	138,853.10
Fasha Drugs		
LP #53, <u>Freeport</u> (Closed)	17-Feb-03	136,201.17
Complete Care Pharmacy		
Cor. Eastern Main Road & Riverside Road, <u>Curepe</u>	17-Feb-03	134,590.57

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PHARMACY FULL NAME	Date of Entry into Programme	TOTAL VALUE
KAV's Drugs		
Lp #40 Diego Martin Main Road, <u>Diego Martin</u>	17-Feb-03	131,494.82
Medicine Plus		
Shops 21 & 22, <u>Maraval</u>	17-Feb-03	131,197.06
Ross Budget Drugs Ltd.		
Cor. Queen Street & Broadway, <u>Arima</u>	17-Feb-03	127,794.99
Rogers Drug Store		
114 High Street, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	126,444.30
Khan's Pharmacy		
Cor. Eastern Main Road & Broome Street, <u>Petit Bourg</u>	17-Feb-03	126,032.34
City Drugs Investments Ltd.		
42 Independence Square, <u>Port of Spain</u>	17-Feb-03	125,933.60
Jags Drugs		
Montrose Junction, <u>Chaguanas</u>	17-Feb-03	123,053.18
Siri's Pharmacy		
135 Southern Main Road, <u>Marabella</u>	04-Aug-03	122,196.43
Esther's Pharmacy		
62 High Street, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	119,771.26
La Romain Drug Mart		
Cor. Southern Main Road & Lucky Street, <u>La Romain</u>	17-Feb-03	119,461.53
Fit For Life Pharmacy		
451 Southern Main Road, <u>Chaguanas</u>	17-Feb-03	117,044.33
Pharmarx Pharmacy		
South-West City Mall, <u>Bon Accord</u>	17-Feb-03	116,433.30

PHARMACY FULL NAME	Date of Entry into Programme	TOTAL VALUE
The Pharmacy Cor Abercromby & Albert St., <u>St. Joseph</u>	17-Feb-03	112,849.44
Bhagan's Drugs LP 39 Caroni Savannah Road, <u>Chaguanas</u>	13-May-05	109,355.02
Crichlow's Pharmacy 100 Western Main Road, <u>St. James</u>	17-Feb-03	105,851.11
P.S.I. Drugs 163 Aranguez Main Road, <u>Aranguez</u>	17-Feb-03	104,599.18
Charlieville Community Pharmacy 131 Caroni Savannah Road, <u>Charlieville</u>	21-Jun-05	103,627.19
D. Bartlett Drugs 49B High Street, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	102,198.53
Golden Drugmart Co. Ltd. Cor. Southern Main Road & <u>Curepe</u>	17-Feb-03	101,249.71
Glendale's Drugs Ground Level, Trincity Mall, <u>Trincity</u>	17-Feb-03	101,217.42
Penal Specialists Centre Pharmacy 1345 SS Erin Road, <u>Penal</u> (Closed)	17-Feb-03	97,691.48
Hi-Way Drug Pasea Main Road, <u>Tunapuna</u>	17-Feb-03	95,110.32
Bonanza Drugs 49 Eastern Main Road, <u>Petit Bourg</u>	17-Feb-03	95,110.23
Healthnet Limited 7 Hebert Street, <u>St. Clair</u>	17-Feb-03	95,023.85

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PHARMACY FULL NAME	Date of Entry into Programme	TOTAL VALUE
Valley Drugs Ltd.		
LP #1 El Socorro Road, <u>San Juan</u>	17-Feb-03	91,302.18
O'meara Pharmacy		
Cor. O'meara Road & La Chance Trace Ext., <u>Arima</u>	02-Dec-03	91,049.82
Ali's Pharmacy Ltd.		
Bldg. E Grand Bazaar, <u>Valsayn</u>	17-Feb-03	90,191.08
Ross Budget Drugs Ltd.		
32 Eastern Main Road, <u>San Juan</u>	17-Feb-03	89,711.78
B & S Drugs		
3 Penal Rock Rd, <u>Penal</u>	17-Feb-03	88,868.86
Harry's Pharmacy		
139 Pointe-a-Pierre Road, <u>Vistabella</u>	17-Jun-04	88,449.48
Ramkoon's Pharmacy		
Pierreville, <u>Mayaro</u>	17-Feb-03	88,111.38
Tropical Pharmacy		
Tropical Plaza, <u>Point-a-Pierre</u>	17-Feb-03	87,873.46
Ali's Pharmacy		
Shop 11 Ground Floor, <u>Diego Martin</u>	17-Feb-03	85,496.69
Ultra Care Pharmacy		
Lot 109 Diego Martin Main Road, <u>Diego Martin</u>	17-Feb-03	84,278.97
Southern Specialist Pharmacy		
26-34 Quenca Street, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	81,219.27
St. Thomas Pharmacy		
25 Cocorite Road, <u>Arima</u>	02-Jun-04	81,150.44
De-Ann Drugs Ltd.		
1345 SS Erin Road, <u>Penal</u>	12-Jul-06	80,718.56
Shireen's Pharmacy		
50 Ciperro Street , <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	80,608.13

PHARMACY FULL NAME	Date of Entry into Programme	TOTAL VALUE
A.L.S. Drugs JTA Plaza 2, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	76,429.00
Roopnarine's Drug Store Limited 21 Debe Main Road, <u>Debe</u>	15-Jun-05	75,537.17
Bournes Road Pharmacy 2 Bournes Road, <u>St. James</u>	17-Feb-03	74,284.61
Health Plus Pharmacy 4 Southern Main Road, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	73,281.90
Ross Budget Drugs Ltd. Gulf City Shopping Complex, <u>Gulf City</u>	17-Feb-03	73,088.23
A & R Budget Drugs Main Road, <u>Fyzabad</u>	17-Feb-03	71,637.63
Disdrugs 68 Independence Square, <u>Port of Spain</u>	17-Feb-03	71,609.21
Michelle's Drugs 1087 SS Erin Road, <u>Debe</u>	17-Feb-03	71,540.88
Seeta's Pharmacy 29 De Gannes Lane, <u>Siparia</u>	17-Feb-03	68,149.66
Western Pharmacy 111 Western Main Road, <u>St. James</u>	17-Feb-03	67,353.72
Woo's Pharmacy Cor. Warner & Picton Streets, <u>Port of Spain</u>	17-Feb-03	66,781.28
Prescription House Ltd. 16-18 Eastern Main Road, <u>Tunapuna</u>	15-Jun-04	65,456.70
Lopinot Drugs Ltd. 103 Eastern Main Road, <u>Arouca</u>	17-Feb-03	64,544.44
Pharmacy Ltd. 94 Ramsaran Street, <u>Chaguanas</u>	16-Jun-05	64,436.15

PHARMACY FULL NAME	Date of Entry into Programme	TOTAL VALUE
RJ'z Pharmacy Ltd.		
12 Guapo Road, <u>Point Fortin</u>	17-Feb-03	63,476.98
Ross Budget Drugs Ltd.		
Main Street, <u>Scarborough</u>	17-Feb-03	63,428.30
St. Augustine Private Hospital		
Cor. Austin Street & Eastern Main Road, <u>St. Augustine</u>	07-Apr-04	63,101.87
Total U Pharmacy		
25 Hollis Avenue, <u>Arima</u>	19-Mar-04	61,916.81
Tobago Pharmacy		
31 Carrington Street, <u>Scarborough</u>	17-Feb-03	61,493.73
SuperPharm Limited		
1 Columbus Circle, <u>Westmoorings</u>	20-Sep-05	59,436.57
Tsoi's Pharmacy D/Town Ltd.		
Downtown Scarborough Mall, <u>Scarborough</u>	17-Feb-03	57,852.38
United Pharmacy		
Southern Main Road, <u>Rousillac</u>	17-Feb-03	54,221.37
Uptown Drugs Ltd.		
Main Street, <u>Tobago</u>	17-Feb-04	52,526.18
SRS Drugs Ltd.		
192 Point-a-Pierre Rd., <u>Vistabella</u> (Closed)	17-Feb-03	50,946.80
P.N.T. Drugs Ltd.		
103 Caroni Savannah Rd., <u>Chaguanas</u>	17-Feb-03	50,454.44

PHARMACY FULL NAME	Date of Entry into Programme	TOTAL VALUE
Total Care Pharmacy		
Gulf City Complex, <u>La Romain</u>	17-Feb-03	45,999.99
Jevestus Drugs		
49 Eastern Main Road, <u>Curepe</u>	17-Feb-03	44,681.02
Community Hospital of S.D.A.		
Western Main Road, <u>Cocorite</u>	17-Feb-03	43,924.62
Pyramid Drugs		
28 Mucurapo Street, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	42,448.94
S.R.S. Drugs		
#202 Pointe-a- Pierre Road, <u>San Fernando</u>	25-Apr-05	41,846.06
Scarborough Drugs Ltd.		
Carrington Street & Wilson Road, <u>Scarborough</u>	17-Feb-03	40,337.69
Healthnet Limited		
112 Eastern Main Road, <u>Barataria</u>	17-Feb-03	39,651.81
Saith's Drug Stop		
48 High Street, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	39,269.66
Healthnet Pharmacy		
Ground Floor, <u>Trincity</u>	17-Feb-03	37,761.07
Shopper's Drugs Limited		
Charlotte Street, <u>Port of Spain</u>	17-Feb-03	36,518.70
Alchemist Drug Store Ltd.		
57 Duke Street, <u>Port of Spain</u> (Out)	17-Feb-03	35,956.37
Pharma Care Drug Ltd.		
55 Eastern Main Road, <u>Curepe</u>	17-Feb-03	35,154.44
Family Care Pharmacy		
Cor. Eastern Main Road & D'Andrade Street, <u>Tacarigua</u>	17-Feb-03	34,535.69
Mid R-Drugs		
LP# 275 Southern Main Road, <u>Cunupia</u>	17-Feb-03	34,276.53

PHARMACY FULL NAME	Date of Entry into Programme	TOTAL VALUE
Garcia's Pharmacy Guapo Rd., <u>Fyzabad</u>	17-Feb-03	33,695.09
Sinanan West End Pharmacy Limited Milford Road, <u>Bon Accord</u>	17-Feb-03	32,903.27
Rodriguez Specialist Pharmacy #10 Caroni Savannah Road,, <u>Chaguanas</u> (Closed)	11-Feb-04	32,047.28
Family Care Drug Mart Limited #1 Bamboo Junction, <u>La Romain</u>	06-Dec-05	31,197.04
Dookeran's Drugs Ltd. 30 Cipero Street, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	30,738.83
Ralph's Pharmacy #13 Penal Rock Road, <u>Penal</u>	17-Feb-06	29,568.60
Netta's Drugs Ltd 48 Broadway, <u>Arima</u>	16-Jun-03	27,417.17
New City Drugs 93 Rushworth Street, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	25,995.91
Starlite Drugs Head Office, Caribchem Complex, <u>El Socorro</u>	07-Mar-06	25,213.40
Bazzey's Drugs #12 Naparima Mayaro Road, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	22,654.61
AK Pharmacy Cor. Abercromby & Buena Vista Street, <u>St. Joseph</u>	23-Jun-05	22,109.92
HR Drugs 72 Eastern Main Road, <u>Point Fortin</u> (Closed)	17-Feb-03	21,103.76

PHARMACY FULL NAME	Date of Entry into Programme	TOTAL VALUE
Medicine City Ltd. 94 Ramsaran Street, <u>Chaguanas</u> (Closed)	17-Feb-03	20,700.46
Tony's Drugmart 25 Naparima Mayaro Rd, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	20,215.75
Gulf View Pharmacy 715-716 Mc Connie St., <u>La Romain</u>	17-Feb-03	20,168.68
Palmiste Pharmacy 15 Carib Street, <u>San Fernando</u> (Closed)	17-Feb-03	19,613.61
SuperPharm Limited Corner Morequito Road & Churchill Roosevelt Highway, <u>Valsayn</u>	05-Apr-06	17,767.23
Cassann Drugmart #103 Cascade Main Road, <u>Cascade</u>	01-Oct-03	16,914.57
Health Care Pharmacy 45C New Colonial Rd., <u>Barrackpore</u>	17-Feb-03	16,757.18
Jet Drugs #85 Corner Monroe Road & <u>Cunupia</u>	18-Jan-06	16,143.22
Just Personal Pharmacy c/o Hi Lo Food Stores, Marabella House, <u>Marabella</u>	14-Sep-05	15,652.16
Health Site Pharmacy #2 Real Street, <u>San Juan</u>	21-Mar-05	15,036.39
The Glencoe Pharmacie Ltd. Highland Plaza, <u>Glencoe</u> (Closed)	17-Feb-03	14,143.09
South Zone Pharmacy 38-40 Main Road, <u>Point Fortin</u> (Closed)	17-Feb-03	12,478.27

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PHARMACY FULL NAME	Date of Entry into Programme	TOTAL VALUE
Surgi-Med Pharmacy 36-36A Penitence Street, <u>San Fernando</u> (Out)	18-Aug-05	11,521.18
Jean's Pharmacy Cor. Caroni Savannah Rd, <u>Chaguanas</u> (Out)	17-Feb-03	10,518.05
Just Personal Pharmacy c/o Hi Lo Food Stores, <u>Westmoorings</u>	14-Sep-05	9,636.79
Triple K. Pharmacy Ltd. St. Margaret's Junction, <u>Claxton Bay</u>	17-Feb-03	9,397.79
Narinesingh's Drugs Tramline Street, <u>Princes Town</u>	17-Feb-03	8,173.31
Just Personal Pharmacy Hi Lo Food Stores, <u>St. Augustine</u>	22-Mar-06	7,303.49
Sally's West End Pharmacy 10 Caroni Savannah Road, <u>Chaguanas</u> (Closed)	17-Feb-03	7,122.92
Ross Budget Drugs Ltd. 95 Western Main Road, <u>St. James</u> (Closed)	17-Feb-03	6,666.76
Lisa's Pharmacy #54 Bamboo Bay Road, <u>San Fernando</u>	23-Feb-06	6,661.45
Vernon Drugs Main Road, <u>Sangre Grande</u>	17-Feb-03	6,528.76
Immanuel's Drugs #27 Coffee Street, <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	5,802.73
Ross Budget Drugs Ltd. Royal Palm Plaza, <u>Maraval</u>	17-Feb-03	5,690.19

PHARMACY FULL NAME	Date of Entry into Programme	TOTAL VALUE
Creative Pharmacy Centre Pointe Mall, <u>Chaguanas</u> (Closed)	17-Feb-03	5,251.42
KPR Pharmacy Co Ltd. 44-45 Tumpuna Guanapo Road, <u>Arima</u> (Out)	11-Mar-04	4,817.64
Just Personal Pharmacy Hi Lo Food Stores, <u>St. Ann's</u>	10-Feb-06	4,618.22
Chase Budget Drugs 46 Prince Street, <u>Port of Spain</u>	17-Feb-03	4,231.28
Shopper's Drugs Limited Town Centre Mall, <u>Port of Spain</u> (Closed)	17-Feb-03	3,650.87
Monarch Drugs 43 Eastern Main Road, <u>Barataria</u>	17-Feb-03	3,109.11
ChrisEm Pharmacy Cor. Southern Main Road &, <u>Curepe</u>	17-Jun-05	2,757.75
Life Style Drugs Ltd. LP 876 Eastern Main Road, <u>Sangre Grande</u>	12-Jun-06	2,754.60
Medicine Plus 145 Western Main Road, <u>St. James</u> (Closed)	17-Feb-03	1,870.91
The Remedy Shop 1st. Avenue Orchard Gardens, <u>Chaguanas</u> (Closed)	17-Feb-03	1,628.78
Drug Rite Ltd. 18 Saddle Road, <u>Maraval</u> (Closed)	17-Feb-03	1,520.33
Angpa Drugs #278 Eastern Main Road, <u>El Dorado</u> (Out)	15-Oct-04	1,501.04

PHARMACY FULL NAME	Date of Entry into Programme	TOTAL VALUE
Fresh Cut Pharmacy 34 Southern Main Road, <u>Curepe</u> (Closed)	17-Feb-03	788.29
Dayz Home Care Centre 44-45 Tumpuna Road, <u>Arima</u> (Out)	17-Feb-03	321.37
Homer's Pharmacy 69 Rosalino Street, <u>Woodbrook</u> (Closed)	17-Feb-03	158.52
* Ali's Pharmacy Ltd. 131 Tragarete Road, <u>Port of Spain</u>	22-May-06	0.00
* Bhagan's Drugs (Trincity) Ltd. Tru Valu Supermarket, <u>Trincity</u>	16-Oct-06	0.00
* Borde Roberts Drugs Store Cor. El Socorro Rd. & Martin Trace, <u>El Socorro</u>	17-Feb-03	0.00
* Christgab Drugmart and Variety Store Limited 35 Lewis Street, <u>San Fernando</u>	22-May-06	0.00
* Jad's Pharmacy 36 Bonne Aventure Road, <u>Gasparillo</u>	28-Jun-06	0.00
* Krysten's Drugs ISL Bldg. 51 Sutton St., <u>San Fernando</u>	17-Feb-03	0.00
* Lyn's Pharmacy Ltd. 242 Naparima/Mayaro Road, <u>Princes Town</u>	06-Jul-06	0.00
* Med-Zone Pharmacy Limited 11A Lothian's Road, <u>Princes Town</u>	22-Aug-06	0.00
* Parkway Pharmacy 235 St. Charles Village, <u>Princes Town</u>	22-May-06	0.00

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PHARMACY FULL NAME	Date of Entry into Programme	TOTAL VALUE
<i>* SuperPharm Limited</i>		
Price Plaza, <u>Chaguanas</u>	05-Jul-06	0.00
<i>* The Dispensary</i>		
Good Health Medical Facility, <u>Port of Spain</u>	26-Jan-06	0.00
<i>* The New Arima Pharmacy Company Ltd.</i>		
15 Queen Street, <u>Arima</u>	17-Feb-03	0.00
TOTAL VALUE		54,603,614.36

*Note: * New CDAP participants*